



Adult Education
Bilingual Education
Charter Schools
Class Size Reduction Program
Early Childhood Education
Educational Technology
Facts & Figures for Massachusetts Public Schools
Learning Support Services
Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System
Office of Student Leadership
Problem Resolution System
School Choice
Special Education
Teacher Quality Enhancement

Fact Sheets 00



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education
August, 2000



Adult Education

Fact Sheet
August
2000

Chapter 69, Section 1H. “. . . the Department, in coordination with other state agencies, shall develop a comprehensive system, subject to appropriation, for the delivery of adult basic education and literacy services that will ensure opportunities leading to universal basic adult literacy and better employment opportunities. . . .”

“The Department shall endeavor to develop the following objectives: (1) a full continuum of services that take an adult from the lowest level of literacy or English language proficiency through high school completion leading to advanced education and training; (2) a network of self-trained, full-time adult literacy and English as a Second Language professional instructors, qualified to provide high quality effective services; (3) a strong documentation and evaluation capacity that will enable the state to determine what methods of instruction and what means of service delivery are most effective in educating adults; and (4) coordinated accountability mechanisms that simplify existing reporting and refunding processes.”

Board of Education Mission Statement on Adult Education, adopted 11/93

“Massachusetts shall provide each and every adult with opportunities to develop literacy skills needed to qualify for further education, job training and better employment and to reach his or her full potential as a family member, productive worker and citizen in our diverse and changing democratic society.”

Funding and Services

The Department of Education is the lead state agency for Adult Basic Education (ABE) services. State and federal funding in FY 98 was approximately \$29 million, which supported 20,000 students in 200 statewide programs. FY 99 funding will approximate \$37 million.

The Department of Education administers the federal Adult Education Act and other federal discretionary adult education programs such as “Even Start,” workplace education grant programs, and family literacy grant programs.

YEAR	TOTAL FUNDING	STUDENTS SERVED*	EDUCATION PROVIDERS**	COMMUNITIES SERVED
FY 93	\$8,284,782 F-\$4,124,536 S-\$4,165,626	9,219	194	65
FY 94	\$7,882,598 F-\$3,716,972 S-\$4,165,626	8,573	177	65
FY95	\$9,934,162 F-\$5,728,697 S-\$4,205,465	10,276	185	65
FY96	\$13,178,737 F-\$4,933,272 S-\$8,245,465	13,295	185	75
FY97	\$16,573,844 F- \$4,828,379 S-\$11,745,465	16,580	179	91
FY98	\$29,237,386 F- \$6,660,104 S-\$19,545,465 Other-\$3,031,817	20,000	200	117
FY99	\$36,678,191 F- \$6,660,104 S-\$26,600,000 Other-\$3,418,087	23,000	203	120
FY00	\$40,889,552 F- \$7,078,120 S-\$30,201,751 Other-\$3,609,681	24,000	203	120
FY01	\$42,826,488 F- \$8,679,530 S-\$30,227,525 Other-\$3,919,433	24,000 (estimated)	179	106

F = Federal
S = State
* These figures are for students directly funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education and do not include the substantial number of students served with local matching and other funding. Average hours of instruction per student has more than doubled since 1991.
**Community based organizations, local school districts, community colleges, municipal agencies (e.g., libraries), homeless shelters and labor-management non-profit educational programs. Several providers are now working in multi-agency collaborations which are increasing the coordination and administrative efficiency of ABE services in their communities.



Charter Schools

**Fact Sheet
August
2000**

Charter schools are independent public schools that have been operating in Massachusetts since September 1995. Charter Schools in Massachusetts are started by parents, teachers, social service organizations, and community leaders. Charters are granted by the state Board of Education. These schools have freedom to organize around a core mission, curriculum, theme, or teaching method. They control their own budgets and hire (and fire) teachers and staff. In return for this freedom, a charter school needs to attract and retain students and produce good results within five years or lose its charter.

Current Status

State law has capped the number of Massachusetts charter schools at 50, 37 Commonwealth and 13 Horace Mann charter schools. There is legislation pending that may raise that cap, and have other effects on the Charter School law.

Since 1994, the Board of Education has awarded 44 charters – specifically, 37 Commonwealth and 7 Horace Mann charter schools. As of July 2000 there are one Commonwealth and seven Horace Mann charters available for granting in the 2000-2001 charter application cycle. During the 1999-2000 school year, 39 schools were operating including 34 Commonwealth and 5 Horace Mann charter schools. Three Commonwealth schools are set to open in September 2000. The Global Learning Charter School in New Bedford, a Horace Mann charter school, was chartered in February 2000 and will open in fall 2001. In the 1999-00 school year, 11,254 students attended charter schools, with over 8,500 students on waiting lists for next year.

Since the charter school initiative’s inception, Massachusetts has received over 200 applications to start these independent public schools.

Charter School Accountability

Fundamental to charter school accountability are three requirements, (1) the academic program should be a success, (2) the school should be a viable organization, and (3) the school should be faithful to the terms of its charter. Charter schools must report on progress toward their objectives in an annual report due August 1 of each year (followed with an independent financial audit several months later.) In addition, charter schools are subject to an annual day-long site visit conducted by a small group of Massachusetts citizens who are not involved in the school. The purpose of these visits is to augment and verify the information contained in the annual report and to learn firsthand as much as possible about the school’s performance. Charter schools need to apply for renewal every five years, and undergo a 4-day renewal inspection based on the school inspection method practiced in Great Britain. Based on annual reports, site visit reports, a renewal inspection report, and financial records, the Board of Education votes to renew or not renew each school’s charter for an additional five-year term.

Funding of Charter Schools

For each child a Commonwealth charter school enrolls, it receives a sum from the state equal to the average cost per student in the school district in which that child resides. The state then deducts the same amount from the sending district’s state aid account Funding for a Horace Mann charter school comes directly from the school district in which the school is located. Like other public schools, Commonwealth charter schools are eligible to receive federal and state program funds.

Funding FY2001	Estimated district payment	\$93,604,283
	Estimated state payment for students previously in private or home schools	\$3,801,570
	Estimated FY99 state reimbursement to districts	\$32,821,845

Number of Students

	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
Commonwealth	2,623	5,329	6,623	9,428	11,254	13,190
Horace Mann	0	0	0	468	1,185	1,286
Total	2,623	5,329	6,623	9,896	12,439	14,476

