

Massachusetts



Department of
Education

Educational Technology in Massachusetts *1999-2000*

March 2000



Massachusetts Department of Education
address 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148
telephone 781-338-3000 **internet** www.doe.mass.edu



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

March 20, 2000

Dear Educators, Parents, and Interested Parties:

I am happy to share with you this document which includes the results from the latest District Technology Plan updates. As the data show, our state is making great strides in improving technology access for educators and students. Especially impressive is the growth in Internet access. With the majority of classrooms now connected to the Internet via high-speed local area networks, students and teachers have greater opportunities to incorporate the state learning standards into daily classroom experiences.

The Department of Education has been working closely with the Governor, the legislature, and educational and business leaders to ensure that a comprehensive, efficient, and cost-effective network of educational technology services is provided for schools and districts. For several years we have been working toward creating a statewide infrastructure that will bring network information technology directly to our schools. For example, Mass Community Network (MCN), our statewide dedicated network for schools, municipal buildings, libraries, and community centers, will enable districts to purchase high-speed connections at tremendous savings. Virtual Education Space (VES) will help educators and parents to implement standards based curriculum for higher student achievement. The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (TLCF) will continue to offer grants to districts.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership to provide high-quality educational technology for all students in all schools. We have much more to accomplish in our programs to raise student achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Driscoll".

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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