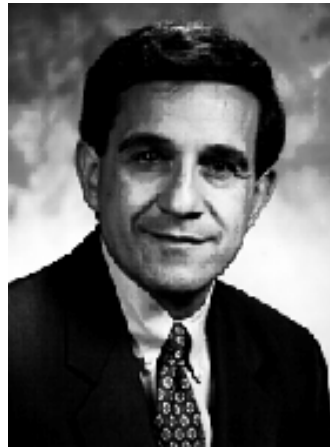




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## Commissioner's Update

July 1, 1996

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

The state budget for fiscal year 1997 has now been determined, and there are some issues concerning grant programs and school building assistance which will affect your schools. Information on this issue is included in the first item of this coordinated mailing:

1. [Grants: Entitlement, Continuation and Competitive](#)

Please refer to this memo and chart to note changes to nine grant programs.

Please note that in the state budget, there are figures for Chapter 70 state aid which also affect the minimum school spending requirements. These updated figures will be posted very soon on our website, and then sent in hard copy to you.

In addition, there is important information about school choice, including the following:

2. [For districts receiving students under school choice --reimbursement calculations](#)
3. [For districts sending students under school choice --tuition charges](#)

Finally, we have prepared a pocket size pamphlet with current state educational data for your reference, and I have enclosed a copy of this for you.

Over the summer, I envision keeping the coordinated mailings relatively light. I will post information on our Internet site (<http://www.doe.mass.edu>) wherever possible, and encourage you to refer to that source of information regularly.

I want to wish you all the best for a good, rejuvenating summer, and look forward to seeing you at some of the events scheduled.

Sincerely,

**Robert V. Antonucci**  
**Commissioner of Education**

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## Grants: Entitlement, Continuation, and Competitive

### Memorandum

**To:** Superintendents  
**From:** Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education  
**Date:** July 1, 1996

The Governor has now signed the budget for the Commonwealth. The Legislature's and Governor's decisions concerning the budget for FY'97 will have an impact on several [grants available to school districts](#) for the school year 1996-97.

In addition to changes described below in state grants, please note the following change in *Title I* based on new eligibility guidelines approved by the Legislative Conference Committee. In Section 629, the Legislature agreed that for the purpose of calculating eligibility for Title I funds, the Department of Education is to add **foster children** placed by the Department of Social Services in a community to the number of children on Aid for Dependant Children. This will require a recalculation of the Title I distribution which we plan to have done by July 15, 1996.

On the table attached, you will find grants identified in [Unified Request for Proposal I: Entitlement, Allocation, Continuation and Non-Competitive Grants](#) and [Unified Request for Proposal II: Competitive Grants](#) that have been modified or canceled.

Please note that you should not send in applications for competitive grants for the following programs: Massachusetts Performance Assessment Program, Gifted and Talented, and Community Service Learning. Further, continuation grants should not be submitted for: Family Involvement in Comprehensive Health.

### Grants: Cancellations and Modifications

Grant Program	Impact
Massachusetts Performance Assessment (630)	No new funding, continuation grants only
Advanced Placement (590)	Funding reduced from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000

<b>Gifted and Talented (580)</b>	<b>No new funding, continuation grants only</b>
<b>Education Reform Restructuring (570)</b>	<b>Total grant funds reduced, only 20 new schools will be accepted in to the Education Reform Restructuring Network (ERRN). Formation of new Elementary, Middle and High School Alliances will proceed.</b>
<b>Dropout Prevention (392) and Remedial Skills (393)</b>	<b>Account level funded. \$90,000 legislatively earmarked for specific district programs. Districts currently in the third and final year of the three year grant cycle will receive a 2.4% reduction.</b>
<b>Community Service Learning (535)</b>	<b>No new funding, competition canceled</b>
<b>Health Protection Funds (346/349)</b>	<b>Total statewide funds for Health Education have been reduced, the Department has been forced to reduce all allocations to school districts by 12.2%.</b>
<b>Health Mentor (330/339)</b>	<b>State allocation has been reduced to \$170,000. The amount of funds for each continuation grant will depend upon the number of programs seeking funds.</b>
<b>Family Involvement in Comprehensive Health (376)</b>	<b>Continuation grants canceled due to reduction in Health Protection Fund.</b>

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## 1995-96 School Choice Program Reimbursement

### Memorandum

**To:** School Superintendents of Districts Participating in School Choice

**From:** Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education

**Date:** June 28, 1996

We have prepared the enclosed reports showing the students enrolled in your district as part of the school choice program and the tuition rates that will be used to calculate your payment.

If you wish to make any corrections, please send them to:

Massachusetts Department of Education  
School Finance Services  
School Choice Program  
350 Main Street  
Malden, MA 02148  
(781) 338-3000  
[sfinance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:sfinance@doe.mass.edu)  
or FAX to (781) 338-6530

We have forwarded the tuition calculations to the State Treasurer's office and that agency will make the final payment of these tuition amounts on June 28, 1996.

Please remember that state aid is available to reimburse school districts or parents who transported students who are low income under the school choice transportation reimbursement program. The attached [reimbursement claim form](#) needs to be filed with the School Finance Services Office on a quarterly basis in order to ensure timely payment.

Thank you for making the choice program a successful option for the students and parents who choose it.

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**School Finance Services  
School Choice Tuition Rate  
1994-95 Pupils and Expenditures**

## **Instruction**

The local expenditures are reported by grade or prototype on Schedules 3 and 4 of the 1994-95 End-of-Year Report. Any expenditures from Schedule 1 Part C.1, Impact Aid Program and the School Choice Program line 3020 are allocated to each grade or prototype on the basis of average membership in Schedule 11 or on the instructional costs in Schedules 3 and 4.

## **Pupil Services**

These expenditures are allocated to each of the grades or prototypes on the basis of the average memberships in Schedule 11.

Pupil services include expenditures for principals, professional development, audio-visual services, attendance, health, food programs, athletics and student body activities.

## **Administration, Maintenance and Fixed Charges**

These expenditures are allocated to each grade or prototype on the basis of the instructional costs.

## **Total Expenditure**

The sum of the costs for each grade or prototype.

## **Average Membership**

These figures are taken from Schedule 11, column 2.

## **Average Cost**

The total expenditure divided by the average membership.

## **Allowed Cost**

The allowed tuition rate for choice pupils in the regular, bilingual and occupational programs will be 75% of the average cost or \$5,000, whichever is less. The allowed tuition rate for choice pupils in the special needs program will be the full average cost.

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## FY 1996 Tuition Charges - School Choice

### Memorandum

**To:** School Superintendents of Districts Whose Residents are Participating in the School Choice Program

**From:** Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education

**Date:** June 28, 1996

We have prepared the enclosed report to inform you of the students who live in your school district and who are attending school in another district as part of the school choice program. The information on the students was collected from the superintendents of the schools they are attending. The tuition rates were calculated from the 1994-95 End-of-Year Reports of the receiving school districts.

The State Treasurer will deduct each student's tuition from the Chapter 70 payment of the district of residence and transfer this amount to the school committee of the district where the student attends. The final installment of this deduction takes place on June 28, 1996.

The [Board of Education](#) is authorized to reimburse a portion of these tuition payments and the enclosed reports include these amounts.

The reimbursement program divides school districts into two groups according to statute. The first is composed of districts that do not receive any Chapter 70 aid for school choice tuition. These districts will receive 25% of the net loss in FY 96 school choice costs as reimbursement. If any districts in the first group are being assessed for school choice tuition in FY 96 for the first time, they will receive 50% of the net loss.

The second group is composed of those districts that receive extra Chapter 70 aid for their school choice costs. The Chapter 70 school choice aid they received in FY 95 has been included in this year's base aid while the new Chapter 70 school choice aid for FY 96 has been listed separately in the Department of Education's notification to school and municipal officials of the FY 96 Chapter 70 distribution. These districts will receive as reimbursement the difference between their FY 96 school choice tuition and the costs represented by the sum of each school choice pupil multiplied by the sending district's per pupil expenditure.

If you determine that any of the information on the students from your district is inaccurate, please notify the superintendent of the receiving district in writing and send a copy of the notification to:

Massachusetts Department of Education  
School Finance Services  
350 Main Street

Malden, MA 02148  
(781) 338-3000  
FAX: (781) 338-6530

Thank you for helping to make the choice program a successful option for the students and parents who choose it.

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