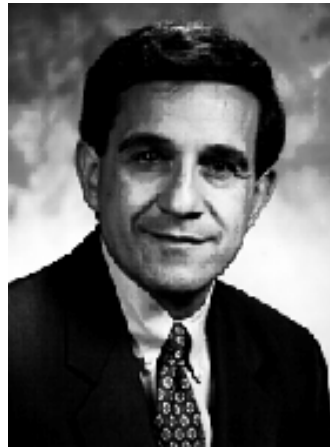


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Commissioner's Update

August 15, 1996

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders,

I know all of you are getting ready for the challenges and excitement in opening school, some this month and others in September. In this bi-monthly mailing I have enclosed just a few items for you which I hope will be useful as you start school.

First, on a matter of special importance to some of you, the FY 97 state budget contains a \$10.2 million appropriation for the foundation reserve program, which was established to provide extra assistance to municipalities and districts facing unique problems in meeting their financial responsibilities under the [Education Reform Law](#). Of this amount, \$7.5 million is reserved for specific municipalities and districts. The remaining \$2.7 million is designated for grants to be awarded by the Department of Education. However, the Governor has filed legislation (H. 6281) which would transfer these remaining funds to the Chapter 70 appropriation. Because it is uncertain what action the Legislature will take on the transfer request, I have decided not to solicit applications for the remaining foundation reserve grants at this time. If and when the funds are released and are available for this program, I will provide you with additional information.

In the mailing, I have enclosed four items:

1. Guidelines for Massachusetts Pupil Transportation School Administrators. I am sending the activity booklet and poster to school principals;
[\[No longer available \]](#)
2. [A memo regarding Child Nutrition Reimbursement Rates for 1997](#);
3. A survey on school governance conducted by Northeastern University, which can be completed and returned directly to Northeastern;
[\[No longer available \]](#)
4. [The 1997 RFP for the Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Program](#).

In the near future, you also will be receiving a copy of the Department's newsletter, Education Today, which reports on local activities in many areas of Education Reform

and includes a coordinated Department of Education professional development calendar. Also, in response to the recent State Supreme Judicial Court comment regarding dress codes, I will issue an advisory on this topic soon.

It was a pleasure to see many school leaders at the MASS Summer Institute in Falmouth in July, and teachers at the MTA Conference in Williamstown this week. I hope you continue to enjoy what's left of the summer before the start of the new school year.

All the best, and

Sincerely,

Robert V. Antonucci
Commissioner of Education

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School Nutrition Financial Information

To: Superintendents of Public Schools and Administrators of Private Schools and Residential Child Institutions

From: Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education

Date: August 16, 1996

I am writing to let you know of the changes in reimbursement rates for the National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs and increases in food assistance levels through the Food Distribution Program. I am also announcing a twenty-five percent decrease in the net fees assessed schools for direct food distribution costs. These changes are expected to result in increased benefits to school districts.

As the chart below shows, federal reimbursement rates are increased across the board. The state "share" for school lunch reimbursements, however, is based upon a fixed appropriation of \$5,426,986. Traditionally, that appropriation was distributed to schools in a \$0.07 per lunch reimbursement. Because of a sharp increase in lunches anticipated for the 96-97 school year, we must set the state "share" at \$0.06 this year.

I am pleased to tell you that decreased costs associated with the commodity foods program allows us to reduce the fees charged back to schools. We have traditionally assessed a fee based upon a percentage of the food's fair market value. Not only are we reducing the overall assessment, we will base the commodity fee on flat per case rates of \$1.25 for dry foods and \$1.75 for frozen foods.

Please note also that the maximum charge for a reduced price lunch is forty cents (\$0.40) and for a reduced price breakfast is thirty cents (\$0.30). The US Department of Agriculture recommends that in order to maintain the non profit status of the reimbursable meal program that pricing for paid student meals should not exceed the actual cost of preparing the meals less the federal and state reimbursements rounded off to the next highest multiple of five cents (\$0.05).

	Federal Share School Year 1995-1996	Federal Share School Year 1996-1997 Net Change	State Share School Year 1996-1997 Total		
National School Lunch					
All Lunches (Paid, Free and Reduced Price)	\$0.1725	0.1775	+0.005	0.06	0.2375
Reduced Price Lunch	\$1.3950	1.4375	+0.0425	0.06	1.4975
Free Lunch	\$1.7950	1.8375	+0.0425	0.06	1.8975
School Breakfast				Severe Need	
Paid	\$0.1950	0.1975	+0.0025	---	0.1975

Reduced	\$0.6975	0.7175	+0.02	---	0.9125
Free	\$0.9975	1.0175	+0.02	---	1.2125
Special Milk					
Per Half Pint Paid Milk	\$0.1125	0.1220	+0.0095	---	
Donated Food Value					
Per Lunch Served	\$0.1425	0.1450	+0.0025	---	

Note:

1. School systems in which 60% or more of the lunches served in 1994-95 were free or reduced price will receive an additional \$0.02 per reimbursable lunch.
2. To qualify for severe need breakfast rates, a school must have served 40% of lunches for free or reduced price and for which the regular reimbursement is insufficient to cover the cost of breakfast. Schools need to document these costs.

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1997 RFP for the Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Program

Name of Grant Program:	Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Program	Fund Code:	641
Purpose:	<p>The purpose of this grant is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop school-based Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention strategies with training and support from experienced practitioners; • enable school personnel and community members to recognize warning signs of Teen Dating Violence and to familiarize them with resources; • help schools develop educational programs and strategies to prevent teens from becoming involved with dating-related violence and to offer safe intervention strategies; and • link schools with resources and support services that are available in their communities. 		
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a collaborative team of local experts to facilitate and oversee effective Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention programs. • To participate in a Teen Dating Violence guideline, policy and procedure training and an intensive prevention and intervention training. • To develop school guidelines, policies, procedures, and referral systems regarding Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention. • To develop safe systems for school-based victim support groups and adolescent perpetrator intervention groups in collaboration with community team members. • To train students to become peer leaders in Teen Dating Violence Prevention. • To hold informational meetings for parents at least four times a year so as to identify warning signs of abusive relationships and familiarize parents with resources available to their children. • To conduct a mid-year assessment of program activities and accomplishments. 		
Eligibility:	<p>All school districts are eligible. All schools must be in partnership with local experts: preference will be to those partnerships that involve schools working with and under the experienced battered women's service providers and law enforcement officials and other experts in the community. Preference will also be given according to geographic location to ensure statewide distribution of the program.</p>		

Funding:	\$50,000 is available to support prevention education curriculum implementation and establishment of school-based intervention programs. Each program may apply for \$5,000 to \$7,700 depending on the scope of the proposed program and the number of schools involved. Awards will be made to ensure equitable geographic distribution of programs.
Fund Use:	These funds are used to cover the cost of staff training, the hiring of local experts, stipends for team members and group facilitators and program supplies.
Project Duration:	10/1/96 - 6/30/97
Contact:	Lilie Atkins
Phone Number:	(781) 338-3000
Note:	This application was previously sent out with the August 15 Superintendent's Mailing under Fund Code 640. The fund code has now been changed to 641. Applications must be post marked by September 30, 1996. Send applications to Grants Management, Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02147.

Part III: Narrative

In no more than four pages, please provide the following information in the order as listed below:

1. Describe the prevalence of Teen Dating Violence in your district and the need for a Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Program.
2. Provide a list of collaborative team members, their agency affiliations, and a description of the role they will play with your Teen Dating Violence Program. This collaborative team could take its membership from school staff and officials, battered women's service providers, batterer intervention program staff, District Attorney personnel, police and safety officials, staff from rape crisis centers, physical and mental health providers, advocates, parents, parent groups and students.
3. Describe how you will implement the goals and objectives, including development of guidelines policies, procedures, and referral systems for students to mental health, medical, legal, and other support service. Also describe curriculum training and implementation, peer leadership training and projects, parent awareness and involvement meetings, and the establishment of safe systems for victim support groups and adolescent perpetrator intervention groups. List the person(s) responsible for coordinating each activity and a time line for each action.
4. Describe how the schools affected will be trained in implementing a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention and intervention program which includes the following key components:
 - provide an overview of domestic violence and the uniqueness of teen dating violence as it relates to domestic violence;
 - use a multicultural approach to training;
 - introduce the issue of teen dating violence to students;
 - teach schools to recognize warning signs and familiarize schools with available resources;
 - address how to handle disclosures of abuse in classroom settings;
 - provide guidelines for developing safe systems for setting up school-based prevention and intervention groups; and
 - provide strategies for approaching and educating parents.
5. Describe the expected results and how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the program.
6. Describe how this program will inter-relate with existing school district programs

especially in the context of Comprehensive Health Education and Safe and Drug Free Schools programs.

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