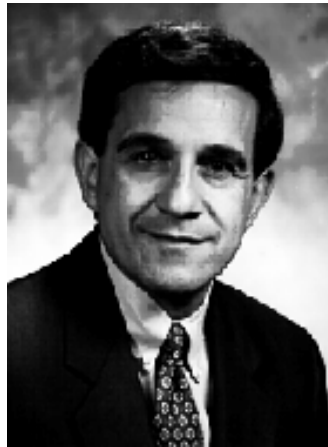


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Commissioner's Update

January 7, 1998

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

I hope you have had the opportunity for a restful, happy and healthy break with your family and friends. These occasions come along too infrequently and we need to step back and enjoy ourselves often.

In this first coordinated mailing of the new year, I have enclosed seven documents for your use. Separately, you will be receiving additional information on educational technology matters next week, and a packet announcing the new Massachusetts Teacher tests.

Also, I want to let you know that the Department has scheduled [three hearings to receive public comment on the 35 proposals to establish new Commonwealth Charter Schools and Horace Mann Schools](#). If any of these schools is in your district, you and members of your school committee in particular are invited to give your comments in writing or in person. The three hearings are Tuesday, January 13, from 4-6 p.m., at the Rodileau Campus Center, at Bridgewater State College; Wednesday, January 14, from 4-6 p.m. in Wilson Auditorium, at Westfield State College; and Thursday, January 15, from 4-6 p.m., at the Massachusetts Department of Education, 350 Main Street, in Malden.

As a reminder, I want to also recommend that you check to be sure that all your teaching staff have the [copies of the state frameworks](#) which they need. I have heard some reports that not all teachers have the frameworks, and this is crucial. We are prepared to respond to your requests immediately. Just let my office know what you need.

As usual, I would invite you to copy and distribute the following items for use by your staff:

1. Educational technology--New Internet accounts available free to Massachusetts educators beginning January 19. Also update on universal service fund.
[\[No Longer Available\]](#)
2. Request for responses--summer 1998 curriculum institutes
[\[No Longer Available\]](#)
3. [FY 1998 school choice](#) and [charter school tuition/reimbursement information](#)
4. [Brochure on February 2 "Job Shadow" opportunities](#)
5. Brochure on "Lighthouse Technology" workshop opportunities and contacts
[\[No Longer Available\]](#)
6. [Board-in-brief summary of December 1997 MA Board of Education meeting](#)
7. Executive summary of "National Standards for School Counseling Programs"
[\[No Longer Available\]](#)

Thank you, as always, for your leadership and commitment to strengthening our schools. I will look forward to

speaking with you and seeing many of you soon at the mid-winter MASS meeting.

All the best, and

Sincerely,

Robert V. Antonucci
Commissioner of Education

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Estimated FY98 School Choice Tuition

[Estimated FY98 Charter School Tuition and Reimbursement](#)

TO: School Superintendents of School Choice Receiving and Sending Districts

FROM: Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 31, 1997

This past October, school choice receiving districts submitted claim forms that listed the school choice students enrolled in their schools this fiscal year. Information from these claims, as well as the FY97 End of Year Pupil and Financial Reports submitted this past fall, has been used to estimate annual tuition amounts for FY98. On December 30, 1997 the State Treasurer's office assessed one-third of this estimated annual charge, and paid one-third of the tuition receipts, as part of each district's quarterly local aid distribution.

All superintendents will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 1 (YELLOW SHEETS)

[Summary of School Choice Pupils and Tuition FY98, as of December 1997](#): a statewide comparison of the change in the number of full-time equivalent pupils and their tuition amounts, between FY97 and FY98.

Superintendents of sending and receiving districts will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 2 (WHITE SHEETS)

October 1, 1997 School Choice Rosters and Tuition FY98, Sending Districts

October 1, 1997 School Choice Rosters and Tuition FY98, Receiving Districts

Superintendents of receiving districts will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 3 (BLUE SHEET)

FY98 School Choice Rate

This information will be used as the basis for the December 31, 1997 and the March 31, 1998 local aid distributions. Receiving districts will submit new claim forms this coming April, which will be used to calculate final FY98 tuition; any necessary adjustments to the current numbers will be made in June.

If you have questions about this information, please contact Phyllis Rogers of School Finance Services, at 781-338-3000 or via email at progers@doe.mass.edu.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

Estimated FY98 Charter School Tuition and Reimbursement

[Estimated FY98 School Choice Tuition](#)

TO: School Superintendents of Districts Sending Pupils To Charter Schools

FROM: Robert V. Antonucci, Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 31, 1997

Last fall, charter schools filed claim forms with this Department that listed students enrolled in their schools as of October 1, 1997. Information from this report has been used to estimate annual charter school tuition amounts for FY98. The State Treasurer's office assessed one-third of this estimated tuition on December 30, 1997 as part of each sending school district's quarterly local aid distribution.

This is the first charter school distribution since the passage of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 1997, the new charter school legislation. In accordance with that law, we have calculated the state's first-year tuition liability for pupils who were home-schooled or who attended private or parochial schools last year. These pupils' sending districts have not been charged for this tuition at this time, as a state appropriation to fund this cost is likely to be proposed in the next legislative session.

The charter school law also changed the schedule of above-foundation reimbursement from 30 percent in a school's third year of existence, to 40 percent.

Another section in the law would completely change the existing method of funding charter transportation. The implementation of those changes is now in the planning stage, and is scheduled for next year (FY99). In FY98, transportation charges continue to be calculated on a per pupil basis, as they were the previous two years, except for those charter schools whose pupils are transported by the local district.

All superintendents and charter school leaders will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 1 (YELLOW SHEETS)

[Summary of Charter Pupils and Tuition FY98, as of December 1997](#): a statewide listing of comparison of the change in the number of full-time equivalent pupils and their tuition amounts, between FY97 and FY98.

Superintendents of sending and receiving districts will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 2 (WHITE SHEETS)

October 1, 1997 School Choice Rosters and Tuition FY98, Sending Districts

October 1, 1997 School Choice Rosters and Tuition FY98, Receiving Districts

Superintendents of receiving districts will receive the following:

ATTACHMENT 3 (BLUE SHEET)

FY98 School Choice Rate

This information will be used as the basis for the December 31, 1997 and the March 31, 1998 local aid distributions. Receiving districts will submit new claim forms this coming April, which will be used to calculate final FY98 tuition; any necessary adjustments to the current numbers will be made in June.

If you have questions about this information, please contact Phyllis Rogers of School Finance Services, at 781-338-3000 or via email at progers@doe.mass.edu.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

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Job Shadow Day on Groundhog Day

February 2, 1998

"Spending time with a professional adult can spur the imagination of a young person, so they can focus toward new goals, and provoke better study habits to reach those goals. I look forward to a student shadowing me and I hope you will consider helping your students to shadow professionals on this day."

Sincerely,

Robert V. Antonucci
Massachusetts Commissioner of Education
Co-chair, School to Work Exec. Committee

GOAL

On Feb. 2, 1998, 100,000 students across the country will be paired with a workplace mentor for one national Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Businesses, schools and communities across the country will come together to give students an up-close look at what the workplace is like.

Often students are motivated in the classroom upon witnessing the skills and education needed for certain professions.

**CAREER EXPOSURE SHOWS
STUDENTS HOW SCHOOL
CONNECTS TO THEIR FUTURE.**

NATIONAL INITIATIVE LED BY:

National School to Work Office

America's Promise
(Colin Powell's volunteer campaign)

Junior Achievement

National Employer Leadership Council

American Society of Association Executives



TURN-ON A STUDENT TO YOUR CAREER. INSPIRE STRONGER CLASS STUDIES.

LET STUDENTS SEE HOW LEARNING IN SCHOOL IS PUT INTO ACTION.

ASHLAND - All juniors at Ashland High will shadow area employers. The school will host an employee breakfast to recruit and educate business leaders on the value of exposing students to career choices.

FALL RIVER - Two hundred middle school students will shadow employees throughout their region.

GREATER BOSTON - Will launch a job shadow campaign for more than 1,500 students shadowing CEOs, legislators, print and television reporters, and high level managers. In March, 450 9th graders will shadow employees to culminate a course on career exploration.

PITTSFIELD - Some 100 juniors and seniors from three high schools will spend the day shadowing Berkshire employees. Professions include graphic artists, travel and tourism, engineers in plastics and paper, bankers and reporters.

**Help a student gain focus
for college through career exploration
on**

JOB SHADOW DAY



FEBRUARY 2, 1998

For information on how to proceed,

CONTACT

Massachusetts Office for School to Work
Department of Education
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148
781-338-3000

OR VISIT

www.jobshadow.org

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Board in Brief

This is "[Board in Brief](#)," issued at the request of Commissioner Bob Antonucci, to bring you up to date on Massachusetts Board of Education matters. The following is a report on the meeting held Monday, December 15, 1997, at the Massachusetts Department of Education.

[Minutes from the December 15, 1997 meeting](#)

Update on the Lawrence Public Schools Situation

Commissioner Antonucci reported that he and Chairman John Silber have been in contact with the Mayor Elect of Lawrence, and that the report of the fact-finding team appointed by the Commissioner will be presented to the Board of Education at its January 12, 1998 meeting. The Commissioner said action on a possible Memorandum of Agreement has been deferred in order to involve the new Mayor and the newly elected members of the School Committee in the resolution of the case. He stated, "It is very important that an agreement be reached in January. We cannot stop. We have a right to move ahead and we have a responsibility to the students of Lawrence. If we are not successful in reaching an agreement, we must go back to consideration of receivership." The Commissioner said he hopes an agreement will be reached before the next status conference in the Lawrence case, scheduled for January 22, 1998.

New Teacher Certification Test - Update

Commissioner Antonucci reported that he has selected National Evaluation Systems (NES) of Amherst to assist the Department of Education in developing and, beginning in 1998, administering the new test for teachers seeking Massachusetts certification. The certification test is required by state law. Issues still under discussion with the contractor include the test administration schedule and, more importantly, ensuring that the test will be rigorous and of high quality, based on college-level content.

Student Learning Time - Presentation of Proposal for Discussion

Board member Edward Delattre presented to the Board a proposal to review the Student Learning Time ("Time and Learning") Regulations, to focus more on the core academic subjects identified in the Education Reform Act. After considerable discussion, the Board voted unanimously to consider amending the regulations, and requested Commissioner Antonucci to prepare additional information and options for action, to be reviewed at the January meeting. The Commissioner explained that if the Board decides that the regulations should be amended, it will solicit public comment on a specific proposal before taking final action.

Racial Imbalance Law - Presentation of Proposal for Discussion

Board members Jim Peyser and Roberta Schaefer, on behalf of themselves and Abigail Thernstrom who was absent, asked the Board to consider a proposal to amend the School Building Assistance formula under the Massachusetts Racial Imbalance Law. The proposal would target 90% state school building assistance to districts with a high proportion of low-income students, without regard to the level of minority student enrollment. The Board heard public comment from four speakers on this issue and on the related issue of the METCO program. Chairman Silber clarified that the proposal under discussion is not intended to change the METCO program or its focus on voluntary racial integration of suburban public schools. He urged supporters of this program to present data that would support its expansion to serve more students.

In support of the proposal, Roberta Schaefer stated, "This would replace the current School Building Assistance formula. It does not imply that the Board has abandoned its opposition to discriminatory policies." Jim Peyser added, "Differences in racial composition of schools do not necessarily betoken discrimination or adverse

educational consequences for students. Barring evidence of illegal discrimination, the state should not involve itself in these issues. The most serious equity issues confronting school districts today have more to do with poverty than with race, and that is the purpose of this proposal." The Board agreed that more discussion and public comment need to occur before it decides whether to endorse this proposal to amend state law. The issue may be brought to the Board for fuller discussion in the spring.

Approval of Grants and Other Matters

The Board approved grants totaling more than \$81,000 for programs in Workplace Education and Community Service Learning. Also approved were the semi-annual school building assistance grants and reimbursements. In other matters, the Board received a report listing the 25 Commonwealth and 10 Horace Mann charter school applicants that will proceed to the next round of review. Final applications for charter schools are due January 5, 1998, and the Board will hold a special meeting on February 26 to decide on granting charters. During public comment, the Board heard from ten speakers on issues including the Student Learning Time regulations, business education, the foreign language curriculum framework and the Racial Imbalance Law and the METCO program.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 12, 1998, at the Department of Education in Malden.

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