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## Commissioner's Update

July 10, 1998

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

As you may know, on Wednesday, July 1, the Board of Education accepted the resignation of Frank Haydu III as Interim Commissioner of Education and then by unanimous vote appointed me as the Interim Commissioner. So this constitutes my first "coordinated mailing" as Commissioner. I will continue this longstanding practice of coordinating mailings to school administrators approximately the 1st and 16th of each month, or more (or less) frequently when warranted.

By a previous vote, the Board had decided to extend the advertising and recruitment period for a permanent Commissioner through the end of November. After that time the Board plans to go through a serious and deliberative process of reviewing applications, determining which candidates to interview, and scheduling interviews in December or later. I look forward to serving the Board in this period. As Bob Antonucci always said, we have a lot to do. We are sharply focused on standards and accountability now as never before. This holds for student testing, teacher testing, and the school and district performance accountability system we are beginning to construct. I pledge that I will look to you for advice and assistance as we move forward, so that I may present the Board with policy advice that is based on a sound understanding of what is happening in schools and districts and how change needs to be effected.

In this mailing, you will find the following documents:

1. [Announcement of September 1 start of certification test in communications and literacy skills for prospective administrators and prospective support personnel](#)
2. Announcement of statewide administrator specialist sabbatical opportunity; applications due by July 31  
[No Longer Available]
3. Proposed amendment to regulations on charter school funding; comments requested by August 7; public hearings set for July 23 (Malden) and July 28 (Springfield)  
[No Longer Available]
4. 1998-1999 State Plan for Professional Development  
[No Longer Available]

I look forward to seeing many of you at the various professional institutes which will be held this summer. Enjoy these two months as best you can!

With all best wishes, and

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

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## Educator Certification Testing Requirements

### Memorandum

**To:** School Superintendents, Principals, Education Deans, Educator Preparation Program Contact Persons, Other Interested Parties

**From:** David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education (Interim)

**Subject:** Educator Certification Testing Requirements

At its meeting on June 22, 1998, the Board of Education voted to require, beginning September 1, 1998, all applicants for certification as provisional educators or provisional educators with advanced standing to meet the qualifying score on the communication and literacy skills test in order to become certified. This will be required of **all** candidates for those two stages of certification -- teachers, administrators, and support personnel -- who apply on or after September 1, 1998. The requirement will be in effect whether or not there is a test of subject matter knowledge for the certificate.

Attached is a list of the specific certificates to which this requirement will apply beginning September 1. Please note that candidates for **all** other certificates already are subject to the communication and literacy skills testing requirement. **With this change, every prospective educator will be required to meet the qualifying score on the communication and literacy skills test to gain a provisional or advanced provisional certificate in Massachusetts.**

Please help us disseminate this announcement widely. You may contact the Department of Education's certification office at (781)338-3000 if you have any questions.

#### Massachusetts Department of Education

Additional Communication and Literacy Skills Testing Requirement  
Effective September 1, 1998\*

### List of Certificates

#### Administrator Certificates

School Principal/Assistant School Principal  
Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent  
Supervisor/Director  
Administrator of Special Education  
School Business Administrator

#### Support Personnel Certificates

Instructional Technology Specialist  
Library Media Specialist  
School Guidance Counselor  
School Psychologist  
School Nurse  
School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor

**Teacher Certificates (for Which There is No Subject Matter Test at Present)**

Teacher of Students with Intensive Special Needs  
Teacher of Students with Vision Impairments  
Teacher of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students: American Sign Language/Total Communication  
Teacher of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students: Oral/Aural  
Teacher of Students with Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders  
Teacher of Foreign Language in which there is no subject matter test  
Teacher of Transitional Bilingual Education in languages for which there is no subject matter test

**\*With this change, every prospective educator will be required to meet the qualifying score on the communication and literacy skills test to gain a provisional or advanced provisional certificate in Massachusetts.**

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