

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

Commissioner's Update

March 2, 1999

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

I am pleased to announce the availability of the on-line Massachusetts educator job placement service that I mentioned in my January 5 mailing. This website, maintained by the Department of Education, will enable individuals who are looking for public school teaching or administrative positions to search for appropriate openings, and will allow districts to post their positions to capture a wider range of potential applicants beyond the usual advertising. There is no charge for usage. I encourage you to begin immediately to post your positions and to search for applicants. The site address is www.doe.mass.edu/mecc. If you have any questions, contact our call center at 1-877-K12TECH (512-8324).

I also need to inform you that the guide for the History/Social Science MCAS is in process of review. When this is completed, which I believe will occur within the next week, we will distribute it widely to you and your staff in preparation for the May MCAS tests.

Additionally, you should have received your preliminary Chapter 70 figures from me in a special mailing last week. These are posted on our finance site as well, for all to review, at http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/chapter_00.html.

In this mailing, I have the following documents for your use. Please distribute to your staff and community:

1. Statewide content specialist opportunities.
We will hire 16 content specialists to serve two year sabbatical terms at the Department, expanding our ability to address district and school needs in crucial curriculum areas. Applications need to be sent by April 16.
[\[No longer available\]](#)
2. Charter school report.
This is our second official report on the state's charter schools. The staff of our charter school office will answer any questions you may have. You can contact Edward Kirby, the Acting Director of the office, or Jose Afonso, at 617-727-0075.
[\[No longer available\]](#)
3. [School construction, school finance and accountability regulations.](#)
[Comments are due by April 2.](#)
4. [Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan.](#)
5. [Violence Prevention Month \(May 1999\)--Materials for distribution.](#)

Thank you for your leadership. I look forward to seeing you and communicating with you soon.

All the best, and

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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[Search](#) · [Site Map](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact DOE](#)


[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

School Construction Regulations and School Finance and Accountability Regulations

Memorandum

To: Superintendents of Schools and Other Interested Parties

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

Date: February 25, 1999

The Board of Education is soliciting public comment on proposed amendments to 603 CMR 38.00, School Construction Regulations, and 603 CMR 10.00, School Finance and Accountability Regulations. The amendments under consideration for the School Construction Regulations include a 3.3% increase in the square foot cost allowances for capital construction in recognition of market increases in the costs of materials, labor and technology involved in school construction projects. (603 CMR 38.06 (1)).

The proposed square foot cost allowance schedule for fiscal year 2000 is as follows:

	FY 1999 Cost Standards	FY 2000 Proposed Cost Standards
Elementary	\$156.00	\$161.00
Middle/Jr. High	\$166.00	\$171.00
High School	\$177.00	\$183.00
Vocational	\$189.00	\$195.00

Additional proposed amendments to the School Construction Regulations are as follows:

- (1) Incorporate into the Regulations current Department of Education procedural requirements regarding timelines of three intermediate steps in the application process. This will ensure that the Department has adequate materials and review time prior to approval of projects. (603 CMR 38.10 (2)).
- (2) In accordance with the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) procedures, each agency must submit contractor evaluations at the conclusion of each project. The proposed amendment, 603 CMR 38.12, will require recipients of school construction funds to file contractor evaluations with DCAM, and to include the evaluation forms with the close-out audit packages filed with the Department of Education.
- (3) M.G.L. c. 44, § 21A, authorizes and directs the Department of Education to recalculate a school construction grant if the project is refinanced by the recipient of school construction funds and the refinancing results in lower interest costs. The proposed amendment, 603 CMR 38.12 (11), requires project recipients to notify the Department whenever projects are refinanced.
- (4) Chapter 194, section 241, of the Acts of 1998 establishes new minimum spending requirements for school building maintenance and provides for loss of eligibility of school construction funds if maintenance requirements are not met. The proposed amendments, 603 CMR 38.14 (1) — (4), outline these requirements and establish a waiver process for instances of unanticipated or extraordinary changes in maintenance spending.

The proposed amendment to the School Finance and Accountability Regulations, 603 CMR 10.02, will raise the limit on extraordinary maintenance expenditures from \$50,000 to \$100,000. These are major maintenance and repair projects which school districts are permitted to fund from the school operating budgets mandated by M.G.L. c.70.

Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted to Jeffrey Wulfson, by mail at Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148; by fax to 781-338-3393; or by e-mail at jwulfson@doe.mass.edu. The deadline for submission of public comment is **Friday, April 2, 1999**. Copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained by calling 781-338-3000. The proposed amendments are also available on the Department's Internet site at www.doe.mass.edu.

The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments at its regular monthly meeting in May or June 1999.

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- > [STC Home](#)
- > [Career Majors](#)
- > [Connecting Activities](#)
- > [Data Management](#)
- > [Job Shadowing](#)
- > [STC Overview](#)
- > [Work-Based Learning Resources](#)
- > [Pathways for MCAS Success](#)

[Teaching & Learning](#) > [Classroom Support](#) > [Curriculum Resources](#) >

Welcome to the Massachusetts School to Career Website

The mission of School-to-Career is to give all students the academic, technical/technological and employability skills necessary to compete in higher education and high performance workplaces.

STC Contact:
Keith Westrich
Center for School Support Services
350 Main Street, 5th Floor
Malden, MA 02148

Tel: 781-338-3902
Fax: 781-338-3950
E-mail: kwestrich@doe.mass.edu

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[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#)



- > [STC Home](#)
- > [Career Majors](#)
- > [Connecting Activities](#)
- > [Data Management](#)
- > [Job Shadowing](#)
- > [STC Overview](#)
- > [Work-Based Learning Resources](#)
- > [Pathways for MCAS Success](#)

[Teaching & Learning](#) > [Classroom Support](#) > [Curriculum Resources](#) >

Massachusetts School to Career

Workforce Investment Boards

Organization Name	Contact	Address	Phone	Email
Berkshire County REB, Inc.	Heather Putnam	1 Fenn St., Suite 201 Pittsfield, MA 01201	(413) 442- 7177	bcreb@berkshire.net
Boston PIC	Neil Sullivan	2 Oliver Street, Suite 7 Boston, MA 02109	(617) 423- 3755	neils@bostonpic.org
Bristol WIB	Patricia Auerbach	One Government Center, 5th Floor Fall River, MA 02722	(508) 675- 1161	pauerbach@detma.org
Brockton Area WIB	Salvador Pina	34 School Street Brockton, MA 02301	(508) 584- 3234	spina@bawib.org
Cape & Islands WIB	David Augustinho	480 Barnstable Road Hyannis, MA 02601	(508) 775- 5900	wib@cape.com
Central Mass WIB	Stephen Willand	44 Front Street, Suite 300 Worcester, MA 01608	(508) 799- 1600	cmreb@splusnet.com
Franklin/Hampshire REB	Patricia Crosby	One Arch Place Greenfield, MA 01301	(413) 774- 3182	fhreb@crocker.com
Greater Lowell WIB	Henry Przydzial	107 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852	(978) 459- 2336	henry.przydzial@nmsda.org

Greater New Bedford WIB	Leonard Coriaty	12 Welby Road New Bedford, MA 02745	(508) 995-3067	Lcoriaty@gnbwib.org
Hampden County WIB	William Ward	1441 Main St., Suite 137 Springfield, MA 01103	(413) 755-1362	nuckols@rebhc.org
Merrimack Valley WIB	Shaw Rosen	60 Island Street Lawrence, MA 01840	(978) 682-7099	srosen@detma.org
Metro North REB	Nancy Brown	300 Commercial Street Suite 27 Malden, MA 02148	(781) 388-7700	info@mnreb.org
Metro South/West WIB	Sylvia Beville	275 Prospect St. Norwood, MA 02062	(781) 769-4120	sylbeville@aol.com
North Central WIB. Inc.	Tim Sappington	1355 Central Street Leominster, MA 01453	(978) 534-1023	tsappington@net1plus.com
South Coastal WIB	Colleen Price	152 Parkingway Quincy, MA 02169	(617) 745-4010	cprice@southcoastalwib.org
Southern Essex WIB	Mary Sarris	70 Washington St., Suite 314 Salem, MA 01970	(978) 741-3805	msarris@shore.net

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- > [STC Home](#)
- > [Career Majors](#)
- > [Connecting Activities](#)
- > [Data Management](#)
- > [Job Shadowing](#)
- > [STC Overview](#)
- > [Work-Based Learning Resources](#)
- > [Pathways for MCAS Success](#)

[Teaching & Learning](#) > [Classroom Support](#) > [Curriculum Resources](#) >

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Local Partnerships

Partnership	Contact	Address	Phone	Email
Assabet Valley	Alan Chates	Assabet Valley Regional Voc. H.S. 215 Fitchburg St. Marlboro, MA 01752	508-485-9430 x463	achates@assabet.mec.edu
Attleboro Area	Christine LaChance	Attleboro High School Rathbun Willard Dr Attleboro, MA 02703	508-252-5381	clachance@aol.com
Blackstone Valley	Susan Spencer	Blackstone Valley Cham. Of Comm. 110 Church Street Whitinsville, MA 01588	508-234-9090	sspencer@blackstonevalley.org
Blue Hills	Catherine Touafek	Blue Hills Regional Tech School 800 Randolph St. Canton, MA 02021	781-828-5800	catherine@school2careers.com
Boston	Kathy Hamilton	Boston Private Industry Council 2 Oliver St., 7th Fl. Boston, MA 02109	617-488-1362	KHamil@BostonPIC.org
Cape Cod and Islands	Coren Peacock	School to Careers Partnership 2240 Iyanough Rd. W. Barnstable, MA 02668	508-362-2131 x4485	cpeacock@capecod.mass.edu
Central Berkshire	David Robin	Central Berkshire STC/Taconic HS 96 Valentine Road Pittsfield, MA 01201	413-448-9601	drobin@pittsfield.net
Charles River	Amy Goodwin	Charles River Consortium 154 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02453	781-736-0494	gdwna@aol.com
Chicopee-Holyoke	Carol Babkiewicz	Holoke School Dept. 57 Suffolk Street Holyoke, MA 01040	413-534-2000 x253	cbabkiewicz@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Fall River	Linda Ann Pontes	Fall River Chamber of Commerce 200 Pocassett Street Fall River, MA 02721	508-676-8226 x11	lapontes@fallriverchamber.com
Franklin County	Gary Howe	Franklin Hampshire STC Partnership One Arch Place Greenfield, MA 01301	413-774-4361	ghowe@detma.org
Greater Gardner	Gigi Haase	Greater Gardner STC Partnership 210 Main St. Gardner, MA 01440	978-632-1780 x16	ghaase@rcn.com
Greater Haverhill	Joe McMilleon	Crossroads 2000 137 Monument Ave. Haverhill, MA 01832	978-374-5766	jmcmilleon@haverhill-ma.com
Greater Lowell	Cathleen Sturtevant	Greater Lowell WIB 107 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852	978-805-4812	cathleen.sturtevant@nmsda.org
Greater Worcester	Dennis Ferrante	Worcester Public Schools 20 Irving Street - Room 210 Worcester, MA 01609	508-799-3195	ferrante@worc.k12.ma.us
Hampshire County	Matt Rigney	Hampshire Educational Collaborative 97 Hawley Street Northampton, MA 01060	413-586-4900 x153	mpridney@rcn.com
Lower Pioneer Valley	Diana Robbins	Greater Pioneer Valley STC Partnership 20 Johnson Rd. Chicopee, MA 01022	413-593-5586	drobbins.vtcc@lpvstcareer.org
Metro West	Katherine Day	Metro West STC Partnership 750 Winter St. Framingham, MA 01702	508-416-2212	kcday@jpkeefehs.org
Metropolitan	Kathi Ware	Medford Voc Tech School 489 Winthrop St. Medford, MA 02155	(781) 393-2207	kathware@yahoo.com
Minuteman	Janice Adams	Minuteman STC Partnership 758 Marrett Rd. Lexington, MA 02421	781-861-6500 x218	jadams@minuteman.org
Nashoba Valley	Tom Casey	Ayer High School Washington Street Ayer, MA 01432	978-772-8600 x212	tcasey@ayer.mec.edu

North Coastal	William Marnik	North SEED, North Shore CC One Ferncroft Rd. Danvers, MA 01923	978-762-4000 x6926	wmarnik@nsc.mass.edu
North Quabbin	Mary Foristall	N. Quabbin Chamber of Commerce 521 Main St., Box 157 Athol, MA 01331	978-249-0005	nqstw@yahoo.com
Northern Berkshire County	Karla Ball	Berkshire County REB, Inc. 1 Fenn St., Suite 201 Pittsfield, MA 01201	413-442-7177	bcreb2@berkshire.net
Quaboag Valley	Loretta Dansereau	Quaboag Valley STC Partnership 3 Converse St., Suite 103 Palmer, MA 01069	413-283-2418	qvstc@mail.ccsinet.net
Southern Berkshire	Paula Hatch-Sato	S. Berkshire Educational Collab. 500 Main Street Grt. Barrington, MA 01230	413-644-9686	phatch@bcn.net
Southern Worcester	Linda Roach	Auburn Public Schools 5 West St. Auburn, MA 01501	508-832-7755 x30	lroach@auburn.mec.edu
Springfield	Pat Spradley	Springfield Public Schools 195 State St. Springfield, MA 01102	413-787-6597	spradley@sps.springfield.ma.us
Taunton Area	Brenda Neugeboren	Taunton Area School to Career, Inc. 72 School St. Taunton, MA 02780	508-977-1430	bneugeboren@hotmail.com
Tri County	Joan Meilon	Tri-County Local Partnership 147 Pond St. Franklin, MA 02038	508-528-5400 x298	meilon@tri-county.tc
Westfield/Gateway	Bob Ollari	Westfield/Gateway Local Partnership 33 Smith Ave. Westfield, MA 01085	413-564-3104	r.ollari@mail.ci.westfield.ma.us

E-mail this page | Print View

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

Violence Prevention Month, May 1999

Dear Superintendent:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Injury Prevention and Control Program requests the participation of your schools in **Violence Prevention Month, May 1999**. The theme for this year's Violence Prevention Month is "Partnerships for Peace."

With the help of individuals and state or community-based agencies, such as schools, we *can* achieve violence prevention. Although violence may seem tremendously difficult to accomplish, our efforts will make the difference. We ask and encourage every school to conduct violence prevention activities that are deemed appropriate for their needs and setting. Enclosed you will find a list of suggestions that can be adapted to a variety of school-based activities, "**Things Your School Can Do For Violence Prevention Month.**"

Also enclosed is an **Event Description Form** that allows us to publicize events that are taking place around the state. We encourage you to duplicate and distribute the enclosed materials to principals, guidance counselors, nurses and other members of the school community who could contribute to making Violence Prevention Month, May 1999 a great success. Once schools have planned their activities, we ask that they complete and return the form to:

Prevention Support Services
The Medical Foundation
95 Berkeley Street
Boston, MA 02116
or Fax to: (617) 451-0062

Please return the form by **Friday, March 26, 1999** so that the information about your activity can be included in the statewide calendar.

Thank you very much for your attention and participation. If you have any questions or would like more information on Violence Prevention Month, please contact Shinta Herwantoro at (617) 624-5430, Jennifer Riling at (617) 451-0049, or Ellen Connorton at (617) 624-5433.

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

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