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Commissioner's Update

July 19th, 2000

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

I have two updates for you, and just two items recently posted on our website.

FY 01 Budget for Education

As you know, the Conference Committee has reported out a budget for FY 01. Obviously, there is a lot of interest in education, and I will have more information for you this Friday, July 21, in Falmouth.

Forums on Proposed Regulations for Certification

Two public forums will be held to receive comments on the proposed changes to the certification regulations. The forums will take place on Tuesday, August 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Regis College, in Weston; and Thursday, August 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Westfield State College, in Westfield. For more information, contact Yit Ling Slayman, at (781) 338-3271, fax (781) 338-3317, or email yslayman@doe.mass.edu. Written comment on the proposed regulations will be accepted until September 15, and an October or November Board of Education vote is expected.

Listed below are two items recently posted on our website, at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. [FY 00 Reimbursement for the Tuition of State Wards](#)
2. [Announcement of Two Forums on Proposed Certification Regulations](#)

I look forward to seeing you in Falmouth. All the best, and

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education



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School Finance: State Wards

Memorandum

TO: School Superintendents and Charter School Leaders

FROM: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

DATE: July 14, 2000

RE: [FY00 Reimbursement for the Tuition of State Wards](#)

On June 23rd, this Department certified the attached schedule of state aid entitlements and payments for the tuition of state wards under the provisions of sections seven and nine of Chapter 76. The pupils reported last fall on the FY99 State Ward Claim Form were matched against Department of Social Services records to determine eligibility. Each district's average per pupil rate in twelve different program categories was then applied to the number of full-time equivalent state wards in those programs, in order to determine the amount of the entitlement.

This year's entitlements total \$13,348,640. Adjustments to last year's payments add an additional \$168,704 for a combined statewide payment of \$13,517,344. Entitlements are fully funded at 100 percent.

All superintendents and charter school leaders will receive the enclosed [FY00 Tuition for State Wards](#) printout showing each district's eligible state wards, FY00 entitlement, FY99 adjustment, and net payment in FY00. In addition, each district that submitted a state ward claim form will receive the following two reports.

1. The **State Ward Pupil Eligibility Status Report** indicates what action was taken on each claim for tuition reimbursement. The "State Ward" and "Reimbursement Status" columns identify one of four possible outcomes:

"Yes, reimburse" means that the pupil was identified by both the district and the Department of Social Services as a state ward, and that he or she is eligible for reimbursement.

"Yes, not placed in district; no reimb" indicates that the pupil was identified as a state ward, but his or her placement was not in the district and therefore the district cannot be reimbursed.

"Yes, parent/guardian in district; no reimb" means that the pupil's current foster home and last home prior to current DSS intervention are in the same school district, making that child ineligible for reimbursement.

"No, not on DSS file; no reimbursement" occurs when the DSS file contains no record matching the pupil's identifying fields submitted on the claim form. No reimbursement

is made.

2. The **FY00 State Wards Entitlement** report shows a district's rate calculation, the number of eligible state ward fte's, and the entitlement in each program.

Accounting For State Wards Payments

The Department of Revenue's Bureau of Accounts advises that cities and towns that have voted to set up a revolving account for state ward payments in accordance with Chapter 71, s.71F should place their payment in that account for expenditure by the school committee without further appropriation. For those that have not voted to set up such a revolving account, the payment should be treated as general fund revenue. In the latter case, cities and towns should be aware that school finance regulations require that this payment is to be treated as local school department revenue for the purpose of determining FY01 net school spending compliance.

Questions

If you have questions concerning these calculations, please contact Roger Hatch in the School Finance office at 781-338-6527.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in making this program work for both the pupils and the districts involved.

Enc:

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Public Forums: Proposed Certification and Program Approval Regulations

Two public forums have been scheduled. The forums are an opportunity to participate in a focused discussion on the proposed changes that impact the roles of higher education institutions, public school districts, and other providers of educator preparation programs.

August 29, 2000

9:00-1:00 p.m.

Regis College

Weston, MA

August 31, 2000

9:00-1:00 p.m.

Westfield State College

Westfield, MA

Refreshments will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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