



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

Commissioner's Updates

January 5, 2001

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this update, I have 4 announcements and 6 documents posted on our [website](#).

School Performance Ratings

On Tuesday, January 9, I will release the Cycle 1 School Performance Ratings District Summary, and will post them on our [website](#), as well.

Mathematics and Science/Technology/Engineering Indicator Data

For the ninth consecutive year, indicator data for mathematics, science and technology/engineering is being collected so that important information on student course-taking and teacher assignments can be analyzed. Districts and schools serving students in grades 7-12 are required to complete and electronically transmit data forms to the Department by January 24, 2001. The web-based data collection instruments can be accessed at www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/. If you need further assistance, please contact our Ed Tech Hotline at (781) 338-DATA.

Special Education Regulations, 603 CMR 28.00, adopted by the Board of Education December 2000, in effect January 2001

At the December 20 meeting of the Board of Education, the Board adopted the special education regulations 603 CMR 28.00. The regulations can be reviewed and downloaded at www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/.

Massachusetts Community Water Watch

The Massachusetts Community Water Watch, a project of the MASSPRING Education Fund in partnership with AmeriCorps and the Massachusetts Service Alliance announces that its third annual Water Watch Education Week Tour will take place from January 10 to 16. The weeklong series of environmental education activities will be conducted in ten communities across the Commonwealth. A day will be spent in each of the five regions across the state where Water Watch Americorps volunteers do service. Last year AmeriCorps volunteers traveled around the state and educated over 2,000 students, and this year hope to reach 4,000 students. This year the program will take place from January 10 through January 16, and will be in Boston on January 15 and 16. For more information on this project please call 617-747-4368.

Listed below are six items recently posted on our [website](#):

1. Massachusetts Institute for New Teachers (MINT) Summary Report
[No longer available]
2. Estimated FY01 School Choice Tuition

- [\[No longer available \]](#)
- 3. Estimated FY01 Charter School Tuition and Reimbursements
[\[No longer available \]](#)
- 4. Reminder about Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship Request for Applications
[\[HTML \]](#)
- 5. Kindergarten Development Grant Application Package
[\[HTML \]](#)
- 6. Mathematics Education Conference "New Directions in Mathematics Education"
[\[HTML \]](#)

Wishing you all the best in the New Year, and

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

TO: Superintendents and Charter Schools Leaders
FROM: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education
DATE: January 5, 2001
RE: Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship Request for Applications

Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship Request for Applications

It gives me great pleasure to announce the 2001 Title I Robert J. Watson Memorial Scholarship. This award, which was established in 1989 in honor of the late Robert Watson, Title I director for the Lynn Public Schools, will provide \$1,500 for one or more graduating seniors who have been accepted into a post-secondary undergraduate program.

The scholarship may be awarded to a male or female, single or married, dependent or self-supporting. The sole eligibility criterion is that the applicant must have participated at one time in a Title I/Chapter I Targeted Assistance or Schoolwide program for one full academic year, at any grade level from preschool through grade 12. Such participation could have taken place in either a public or non-public school, or as part of a program administered in a local/ state operated facility for neglected or delinquent children. The scholarship application has been sent to all Title I directors.

Your assistance is requested in disseminating this information to individuals in your district who may be able to identify deserving students. These individuals may include high school guidance counselors, teachers and program coordinators, as well as Title I administrators in private schools and facilities for neglected or delinquent children. The Title I director, or a designee, should coordinate the effort and review all applications before submitting them with the requested signatures. Applications are due Friday, March 16, 2001 and should be sent directly to the Title I Dissemination Project, 2 Florence Street, Suite 3002, Malden, MA 02148.

Selected recipients will be notified in April 2001, and will receive their awards on May 9 during the opening day's general session of the Annual State Title I Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Sheraton Hyannis Hotel and Conference Center, West End Circle, Hyannis, MA. I hope that you will be able to join us, along with a student from your district, should one be selected.

Thank you for your cooperation concerning this matter.

c: Title I Directors

[Back to January 5, 2001 Mailing](#)

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



- › [Finance/Grants](#)
- › [Recent Updates](#)
- › [Accounting & Auditing](#)
- › [Chapter 70 Program \(Foundation Budget\)](#)
- › [Charter Schools](#)
- › [DOE Budget](#)
- › [Federal Renovation Program](#)
- › [Grants: Information](#)
- › [Nutrition Programs \(School Lunch\)](#)
- › [Per Pupil Expenditure Reports](#)
- › [School Building Assistance](#)
- › [School Choice](#)
- › [School Finance Regulations](#)
- › [Special Education](#)
- › [Statistical Comparisons](#)
- › [Transportation](#)
- › [Vocational Education](#)
- › [Key Contacts](#)
- › [Links](#)

Grants and Other Financial Assistance Programs: FY2001

Transition Planning for Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Program (Fund Code 702)

January 5, 2001

Dear Superintendents and Charter School Leaders:

We are pleased to send you this [Kindergarten Development Grant](#) application package. For the second time in this fiscal year, kindergarten grants are being made available to school districts and charter schools. The overall goal of these grant programs is to encourage the expansion of high quality, full-day kindergarten education throughout the Commonwealth. We hope you will consider applying for these funds. In addition, whether you apply for this new funding or not I would like to request that you complete the one page yellow Superintendent Survey. This will help us develop recommendations for future funding for full-day kindergarten programs.

Our state is moving successfully towards offering high quality full-day kindergarten programs. The response from school districts and charter schools to the kindergarten development grants has been very positive. To date, these funds are supporting quality enhancement initiatives in more than a hundred districts/charter schools through the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Program. Through the Transition Planning for Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Program, 48 school districts have been able to or are in the process of transitioning half-day kindergarten classrooms to full-day.

This package contains the Request for Proposals for the Transition Planning for Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Program (702). This is a competitive grant that supports districts in **planning the transition** from half-day to full-day kindergarten and/or in **assessing the feasibility** of transitioning some existing half-day kindergarten classrooms into full-day. Districts that are willing and able to transition some or all of their half-day kindergarten classrooms to full-day by September 2001 and/or that want to assess the feasibility of transitioning to full-day kindergarten within the next five years are strongly encouraged to apply for these funds. Applications in this package are due to the Department by **February 12, 2001**. If you have any questions, please call Early Learning Services at (781) 338-6364 or contact your Early Childhood Liaison.

Thank you for your leadership in the education and healthy development of young children in your community. I hope districts will take advantage of this opportunity to increase the availability and the quality of full-day kindergarten education in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

TO: Superintendents of Schools and Leaders of Charter Schools
FROM: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education
DATE: January 5, 2001
RE: Mathematics Education Conference

2001 Mathematics Education Conference

On May 4, 2001, the Department of Education, in partnership with Governor Cellucci, will host a Mathematics Education Conference at the Wyndham Westborough Hotel. The title of the conference is **New Directions in Mathematics Education**. The conference has two main themes: the importance of providing high quality mathematics education for all PreK-12 public school students in the Commonwealth; and the showcasing of the state's revised curriculum framework in mathematics and its new licensing regulations with respect to their distinguishing features and implications for mathematics education and PreK-12 teacher education in mathematics.

The intended audience for the conference is PreK-12 teachers and administrators, mathematics education faculty, university mathematicians and parents. Please advise your key mathematics curriculum personnel, particularly secondary mathematics teachers, to set **Friday, May 4, 2001** aside to attend this ground breaking conference. Governor Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Swift are expected to address the conference. Together with workshops and demonstration sessions, the conference will feature Professor **Paul Sally** (University of Chicago) as keynote speaker and a panel of distinguished mathematicians and mathematics educators to include: Professors **Roger Howe** (Yale), **Carole Greenes** (Boston University), **Wilfried Schmid** (Harvard), **Andrew Gleason** (Harvard) and **Dr. Liping Ma** Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The conference should be a wonderful opportunity for teachers and teacher educators to hear from experts representing a range of prominent perspectives on how mathematics should be taught and to participate in workshops and to attend demonstration sessions relating to implementation of the revised mathematics curriculum framework.

[Back to January 5, 2001 Mailing](#)

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