



**David P. Driscoll**  
Commissioner of Education

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

## Commissioner's Updates

April 3, 2001

Dear Superintendents and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this letter, I have one announcement and four items recently posted on our [website](#).

### MCAS Science Question Tryout Postponed for Grades Nine and Ten

Due to a number of concerns I have about the development of and timetable for the MCAS science question tryouts for grades 9 and 10, I have decided to postpone the tryouts until next spring. I came to this conclusion based on three principal reasons: first, the process for adopting the new Science and Technology Framework took a little longer than anticipated, leaving less time for test development; second, you told us at the MCAS workshops that high schools have a tremendous amount of work in organizing this spring's first high stakes tests, and that you could use some relief; and importantly, we can maintain the schedule for implementing the new high school science tests, because we only planned to do a pilot test next year, and not implement fully operational tests until 2003.

I hope this late change of plans will not be disruptive but will help your load in administering the remaining MCAS tests. I will keep you informed about the science question tryout schedule.

---

Here are four items recently posted on our [website](#).

1. The Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award for Juniors and Seniors for 2001  
[ [HTML](#) ]
2. Notice of Public Comment - Proposed Amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval  
[ [PDF](#) ]
3. Memo regarding identifying Distinguished Secondary Educators and Distinguished Secondary Educator Recommendation Form  
[ [HTML](#) ]
4. Dual Enrollment Information
  - a. Dual Enrollment Eligibility Requirements for Fall 2001 Semester  
[ [HTML](#) ]
  - b. Memo to Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and High School Principals on the Revisions in Dual Enrollment Program  
[ [HTML](#) ]
  - c. Memo to Guidance Counselors on the Changes in the Dual Enrollment Program  
[ [HTML](#) ]
  - d. Eligibility Requirements for the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program  
[ [HTML](#) ]
  - e. Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Programs (DESAEP) Eligibility Requirements for Fall 2001 Semester  
[ [HTML](#) ]
  - f. Dual Enrollment Statement of Assurances Form  
[ No longer available ]
  - g. Alternative Dual Enrollment Program (DESAEP) Statement of Assurances Form  
[ No longer available ]

During the next few weeks, I know you will all be busier than ever with testing, plans for graduations and winding down the school year. I wish you all the best, and appreciate your continuing support and commitment to student achievement.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

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

*Massachusetts Department of Education*

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



[Family & Community](#) > [Student Support](#) >

## 2001 Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award for Juniors and Seniors

To: Superintendents, Leaders of Charter Schools, High School Principals, and other interested parties

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: April 5, 2001

The Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery is available to deserving public high school juniors and seniors who demonstrate high academic achievement and success in MCAS testing. The prestigious award carries with it a four-year waiver of tuition at any Massachusetts public college or university, and, subject to appropriation in the state budget, recipients may also receive a stipend.

Last year, 4,700 seniors were eligible based on their tenth grade MCAS test scores. More than 1,000 students applied and 860 received the Certificate of Mastery. This year, 13,500 juniors and seniors are eligible to apply between February 1 and August 1, 2001.

To qualify to apply, a junior or senior needs to reach the Advanced Level on at least one of three MCAS grade ten tests, and at least Proficient on the remaining two tests. To receive the Certificate of Mastery Award, students need to demonstrate two additional accomplishments, at least one of which must be a qualifying score on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam or a Scholastic Aptitude Test II Subject Test (SAT II). One of these accomplishments may also be an award or recognition received in an academic discipline on a regional, national, or international level, as approved by the Department of Education. Lastly, these achievements need to represent both the field of english/humanities and the field of mathematics/science. Details are included on the applications and the web site.

[Applications](#) are now available, and all high schools will be mailed information by the beginning of April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Student Leadership at 781-338-3099 or [OSL@doe.mass.edu](mailto:OSL@doe.mass.edu).

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



## Notice Of Public Comment - 603 CMR 7:00

Pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B and c. 71, § 38G, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c.30A, the Massachusetts Board of Education is soliciting public comment on the proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval.

The proposed amendments include technical amendments, inclusion of a waiver provision which allows the Commissioner to waive specific requirements for school administrators who have significant experience, inclusion of certain "grandfathered" educators who are exempt from licensure by law or previous regulations, and clarification of implementation dates.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available on the Department of Education's web site at [www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu), or by calling 781-338-3271. Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted by mail to Certification Regulations Comments, Massachusetts Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148, by fax to 781-338-3317, or by e-mail to [certregs@doe.mass.edu](mailto:certregs@doe.mass.edu). The deadline for submission of public comment is **Monday, April 30, 2001**. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments at its regular monthly meeting on May 22, 2001.

[Commissioner's Update Archive](#)

## Distinguished Secondary Educators

### Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Principals, Teachers and other interested parties

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: April 2, 2001

The Department of Education would like to identify distinguished secondary (6-12) teachers and principals throughout the Commonwealth. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs.

We are fortunate to have a rich base of veteran educators represented in our current talent pool, who have been and continue to be a valuable resource. What is particularly lacking at this time is representation from educators relatively new to the profession who demonstrate unusual instructional ability. Such educators exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and inspiring presence that impacts students, colleagues, and the community.

Please identify one to three educators whom you would consider a candidate. I encourage you to recommend educators who are outstanding but have not received recognition, as well as those who have previously received recognition (e.g. Teacher of the Year, Christa McAuliffe Fellows, Presidential Award winners, Principal of the Year). Please recommend educators in their early to mid careers (5-18 years for teachers and first 10 years as an administrator for principals).

Please provide CONFIDENTIAL, specific information about your candidate(s) on the enclosed form (3 pages). Please include a one-page letter with this form that addresses how the candidate meets the criteria mentioned in the attached recommendation form. Completed forms must be sent by Friday, May 4, 2001, to the Massachusetts Department of Education, Attn. Deborah J. Walker, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148.

If you prefer, you may fax this information to 781-338-3391, Attn. Deborah Walker, or email [djwalker@doe.mass.edu](mailto:djwalker@doe.mass.edu).

I urge you to take the time to recommend candidates so educators in your district can be considered for these programs.

**Recommendation Form [ [PDF](#) | | [MS WORD](#) ]**

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

[Dual Enrollment Home](#)[Family & Community](#) > [Alternative Education](#) >

## Dual Enrollment

### Eligibility Requirements - Fall 2001 Semester

To be eligible for the Dual Enrollment Program, a student must be the equivalent of a high school junior or senior, have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) and be a Massachusetts resident. Students must earn a B or better in all college-level course work or be highly recommended for continuation by appropriate high school and higher education personnel in order to remain eligible for Dual Enrollment participation.

A student who is enrolled in a non-public high school is eligible only if the school is one that has been approved by the local school district. A student who is home educated is eligible only if the student's educational program has been approved by the local school district.

Only courses at the main campus of the higher education institution qualify for the Dual Enrollment Program. Courses offered at satellite sites or distance learning courses, as well as developmental/remedial courses, do not qualify.

For courses that begin at 6:00 PM or later, students are required to have their parents or guardians submit a waiver for approval by the:

- school superintendent (if student attends a public high school), or
- school director (if student attends a private or parochial high school), or
- superintendent/director (if the student attends a vocational-technical school)

The waiver should be kept on file at the student's school.

### Additional Information

1. Students need to meet with their guidance counselors for:
  - assistance in determining what courses are needed to fulfill high school graduation requirements, and,
  - instruction on how to apply for courses at the public college or university, and,
  - assistance in selecting appropriate college courses

If you have any questions regarding the Dual Enrollment program, please contact Richard Salus at (781)-338-6252 or by e-mail at: [rsalus@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rsalus@doe.mass.edu).

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

[Dual Enrollment Home](#)[Family & Community](#) > [Alternative Education](#) >

## Revisions in Dual Enrollment Program

### Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, High School Principals and Others

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: April 5, 2001

1. The Department of Education will no longer process applications for funding. Instead, colleges and universities will be "block-granted" funds to cover the costs for Dual Enrollment students. The allocation to each college and university will be based upon an average of the past three semesters. At the end of add/drop period, the costs will be totaled and either the college or university will return excess funds or request additional funds from a reserve.
2. The Department's Dual Enrollment web-site will be revised. The changes in the application procedures will be explained. The colleges and universities participating in Dual Enrollment will be listed as well as the names of the college contact persons, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. For information on how to file an application at either the college or university, the college and university web-site links will be listed.
3. There will be no individual Dual Enrollment applications for funding submitted to the Department. Instead, districts will submit to the Department a list of the students they have referred to participate in Dual Enrollment. The students' names, SASID numbers, and the college or university to which the student has applied (see # 4 ) will be listed. At the bottom of the list there will be a Statement of Assurances that the students listed have met **all** the eligibility requirements to participate in Dual Enrollment (e.g., are Massachusetts residents, have a 3.0 GPA, and are deemed capable of performing college level work. For students applying to participate in the Alternative Dual Enrollment Program (DESAEP), a 3.0 GPA is not the sole determinant for eligibility. Alternative students with a GPA below 3.0 can participate in the DESAEP *if they are deemed eligible by the college.*) (For additional information see memo titled, "Eligibility for Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program," on the [Dual Enrollment website](#).)
4. It is the guidance counselor's responsibility to:
  - review each student's eligibility for the Dual Enrollment program,
  - advise students as to the appropriate college course selections,
  - review each student's final schedule of college courses to ensure correct course selections to meet high school graduation requirements,
  - ensure that each student applies to only one college or university,
  - ensure that students are not enrolled in: (a) developmental or physical education courses, or (b) courses that are offered at the high school (e.g. Introductory Spanish or Pre-Calculus), or (c) a course that the high school offers as an Advanced Placement course, or (d) English as a Second language (ESL) courses, and,
  - attest to the fact that each student listed on the form submitted to DOE does meet all the eligibility requirements by signing the Statement of Assurances form.
5. The April 1 through April 20 Enrollment Period for the fall semester has been changed to May 1 to May 30 and re-named, "Fall Dual Enrollment Application Period."
6. The November 1 through November 20 Enrollment period for the spring semester will be extended to November 30 and re-named, "Spring Dual Enrollment Application Period."
7. Each college and university will implement procedures for admissions and notification of acceptance and rejection.
8. Before the beginning of each application period, the Department will notify each college and university of the dollar amount it will have to fund Dual Enrollment students. At the end of the Add/Drop period, each college and university will submit an invoice for the semester. Should

any college or university require additional funds, it can request additional monies from a reserve fund by filing a request for additional funds. Likewise, should any college or university have unexpended Dual Enrollment funds at the end of the add/drop period that should be noted on an attachment to the invoice.

9. At the end of each semester, guidance counselors will submit a report to the Department which will list the courses in which their students were enrolled and the distribution of grades that their students earned.
10. At the end of each semester, each college and university will file a report with the Department that lists the courses in which Dual Enrollment students were enrolled and the grades that the students earned..
11. In the college admissions process, students will be informed that the Department will be conducting studies on the Dual Enrollment program. Consequently, students may be asked to complete questionnaires and /or be interviewed. The purpose of these studies will be to determine the program's effectiveness both in the short and long-term.

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

*Massachusetts Department of Education*

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

[Dual Enrollment Home](#)[Family & Community](#) > [Alternative Education](#) >

## Changes in Dual Enrollment Program

### Memorandum

**To:** Guidance Counselors

**From:** David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

**Date:** April 5, 2001

1. There have been significant changes in the Dual Enrollment application process. Please note the following:
2. The Department of Education has discontinued processing individual Dual Enrollment applications for funding. Instead, guidance counselors will file a Statement of Assurances Form with the Department. That form will list the students, their SASID numbers (public school students only) and the college or university to which each student has applied (students will be able to apply to only one college or university). At the bottom of the form there will be a statement of assurances that the students listed have met all the eligibility requirements. This assurance needs to be signed by either a guidance counselor or school administrator.
3. Students will contact the Dual Enrollment Coordinator at the public college or university where they plan to take courses.
4. The April 1 through April 20 Enrollment Period for the fall semester has been changed to May 1 to May 31 and re-named, "Fall Dual Enrollment Application Period."
5. The November 1 through November 20 Enrollment Period for the spring semester will be extended to November 30 and re-named, "Spring Dual Enrollment Application Period."
6. It is the guidance counselor's responsibility to:
  - review each student's eligibility for the Dual Enrollment program,
  - advise each student as to the appropriate college course selections,
  - review each student's final schedule of college courses to ensure that college course selections meet high school graduation requirements,
  - ensure that each student applies to only one college or university,
  - ensure that students are not enrolled in either: (a) developmental or physical education courses, or (b) courses that are offered at the high school (e.g. Introductory Spanish or Pre-Calculus), or (c) a course that the high school offers as an Advanced Placement course, or (d) an English as a Second Language (ESL) course, and
  - attest to the fact that every student listed on the Statement of Assurances Form submitted to the Department does meet all the eligibility requirements by signing that form, (i.e., are Massachusetts residents, have a 3.0 GPA or better (on a 4.0 scale), and are deemed capable of performing college level work. For students applying to participate in the Alternative Dual Enrollment Program (DESAEP), a 3.0 GPA or better (on a 4.0 scale) is not the sole determinant for eligibility. Students in alternative educational programs with a GPA below 3.0 can participate in the DESAEP if they are deemed eligible by the college. (For additional information, see memo titled, "Eligibility Requirements for the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program," on the [Dual Enrollment website](#).
7. At the end of each semester, guidance counselors will submit a report to the Department. That report will list:
  - a. the courses in which their students were enrolled, and
  - b. the distribution of grades that their students earned.
8. All materials (forms, advisory memos, the listing of College Dual Enrollment Coordinators, and

explanatory Dual Enrollment Brochure) will be posted on the [Dual Enrollment website](#).

If you or your staff have any questions regarding the changes outlined in this memo, please contact Richard Salus at (781)-338-6252 or by e-mail at: [rsalus@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rsalus@doe.mass.edu) and he will be glad to assist you.

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

*Massachusetts Department of Education*

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

[Dual Enrollment Home](#)[Family & Community](#) > [Alternative Education](#) >

## Eligibility Requirements for the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program

### Memorandum

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, High School Principals, and Others

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: April 5, 2001

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification regarding the eligibility requirements for the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program (DESAEP) .

The Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Programs, or "DESAEP" - is intended to be more flexible than the original Dual Enrollment program. In particular, a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. is **not** the sole determinant of eligibility to participate in DESAEP.

While DESAEP is similar in many respects to the original Dual Enrollment program, it has somewhat different goals and a different target population. Specifically, the DESAEP is intended to create an additional educational opportunity for high performing, academically capable young people in alternative programs.

The DESAEP targets students in alternative programs who can demonstrate that they can perform college level work, but who do not technically qualify for the original Dual Enrollment program. Despite previous difficulties in traditional school settings, such students have a record of academic achievement in their alternative program, as demonstrated by grades, competencies (as is the case at some programs), or other measures. However, their overall G.P.A. (including their early high school years) is below the 3.0 minimum for the original program. In adopting the DESAEP, the state legislature intended to address this obstacle, both to recognize the more recent academic achievements of these students and to provide them a further motivator to continue their schooling at the post-secondary level.

Therefore, the DESAEP is explicitly more flexible, offering two ways that alternative education students can qualify for the program. Like the original program, students are eligible if they have a 3.0 G.P.A. But if they do not, alternative education students can participate in the DESAEP *if they are deemed eligible by the college*. As an example, alternative education students could be eligible to participate in the DESAEP if they place into college-level courses by achieving a high enough score on a college's placement test. Colleges may use other eligibility measures as they see fit, *but a below-3.0 G.P.A. alone should not be a bar to participation in the program*.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding DESAEP eligibility or how to apply, please feel free to contact Richard Salus at (781)-338-6252 or by e-mail at: [rsalus@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rsalus@doe.mass.edu) and he will be glad to assist you.

[Dual Enrollment Home](#)[Family & Community](#) > [Alternative Education](#) >

## Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Programs (DESAEP)

### Eligibility Requirements - Fall 2001 Semester

To be eligible for the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program (DESAEP), a student must:

1. be between the ages of seventeen and twenty-two,
2. have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better (on a scale of 4.0) or be deemed eligible by the college based on the student's potential to perform college level work, and
3. be a Massachusetts resident.

Only courses offered at the main campus of the higher education institution qualify for the Dual Enrollment Program. Dual Enrollment does not include courses offered at satellite sites or through distance learning. In addition, neither physical education courses nor developmental/ remedial courses qualify. For reasons of safety, the Department discourages students who are under eighteen years of age from taking courses that begin at 6:00 PM or later. However, a student who is under eighteen years of age may enroll in an evening course if the student's parent or guardian files a waiver request with the superintendent of schools or program director.

### Additional Information

1. Students need to meet with their guidance counselors for:
  - instruction on how to apply for courses at the public college or university,
  - assistance in determining what courses are needed to fulfill high school graduation requirements, and
  - assistance in selecting appropriate college courses.
2. Either a guidance counselor or program director must complete and file a Statement of Assurances Form with DOE.

If you have any questions regarding the Dual Enrollment for Students in Alternative Education Program (DESAEP), please contact Richard Salus at (781)-338-6252 or by e-mail, [rsalus@doe.mass.edu](mailto:rsalus@doe.mass.edu).

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