



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Commissioner's Update

May 20, 2003

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

I have just three announcements in this letter.

English Language Learners: Emerging Districts Initiative

To assist districts with emerging English language populations to build capacity to serve limited English proficient (LEP) students, we will be holding a series of workshops for educators. These sessions will provide participants with greater familiarity with the initial identification and assessment of limited English proficient students, a legal and instructional framework for the education of LEP students, a plan for improving the performance of English language learners, and an introduction to the English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes. Teams from "emerging districts" are encouraged to attend these sessions. For more information and to register, please contact Nyal Fuentes at (781) 338-3593 or nfuentes@doe.mass.edu.



Federal Guidelines on Supplementing, Not Supplanting, Funds

The expected reductions in various state aid and grant programs next year will undoubtedly require districts to cut back on some educational services. At the same time, expected increases in federal grants may offer an opportunity to restore some of those same services. The U.S. Department of Education has provided some useful guidance at <http://www.ed.gov/News/Letters/030306.html> for complying with the federal maintenance of effort and "supplement, not supplant" requirements. In particular, districts will need to maintain documentation that clearly demonstrates that any such services would have been discontinued absent the new federal funding. Districts may wish to discuss this issue in advance with their local auditors, to ensure that acceptable documentation is being maintained. If you have general questions on this issue, please contact our Audit and Compliance Supervisor, [David LeBlanc](#), at 781-338-6485.

Academic Support Services Programs (Funding Code 625)

The Academic Support Services Programs (fund code 625) provides funds for summer programs in school districts, in order to enhance academic support for students scoring at levels 1 and 2 on the MCAS tests. Programs during these vacation months offer an opportunity to sustain learning and raise students' academic achievement. You are encouraged to proceed with the planning and other essential components of summer academic support services programs using the funds designated for the district. The funds necessary to support these programs have already been set aside for this purpose and will be awarded.

Here are 3 items posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. Public Comment Invited on Proposed Amendment to 603 CMR 14.00, Regulations on the Education of English Learners

2. Public Comment Invited on Proposed Amendment to 603 CMR 30.00. Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System and Standards for Competency Determination.


3. "Emerging Districts" Initiative and Registration Form.



Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Education Laws and Regulations

Notice of Public Comment: Proposed Amendments to 603 CMR 14.00

Pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B and c.71A, as amended by c. 386 of the Acts of 2002, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c. 30A, the Massachusetts Board of Education is soliciting public comment on a [proposed amendment to 603 CMR 14.00, the Education of](#)

[English Learners Regulations](#) 

The proposed amendment establishes a new section of the regulations, 603 CMR 14.06, entitled "Parental Right of Enforcement," which establishes an administrative process on the local and state level that parents of English learners must exhaust before they may sue teaching personnel for enforcement of M.G.L. Chapter 71A, as amended.

A copy of the proposed amendment is available on the Department's website at www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/, or by calling 781-338-3400. Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted to: Question 2 Comments., Massachusetts Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148, or to www.question2@doe.mass.edu. The deadline for submission of public comment is **Friday, June 13, 2003**. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendment at its regular monthly meeting scheduled for June 24, 2003.

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Education Laws and Regulations

Notice of Public Comment: Proposed Amendments to 603 CMR 30.00

Pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c.69, §§ 1B and 1D, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c. 30A, the Massachusetts Board of Education is soliciting public comment on [proposed amendments to 603 CMR 30.00, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System and](#)

[Standards for Competency Determination](#) . Specifically, the proposed amendments to 603 CMR 30.03, the regulation on the competency determination standard for high school graduation, clarify that it applies starting with the class of 2003 and that the Board may add additional subjects to the competency determination in future years.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available on the Department's web site at www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/, or by calling 781-338-3616. Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted to Carrie Fagan, Student Assessment Office, Massachusetts Department of Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148; by fax to 781-338-3630, or by e-mail to cfagan@doe.mass.edu. The deadline for submission of public comment is **Friday, June 13, 2003**. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments at its regular monthly meeting on June 24, 2003.

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School and District Accountability


English Language Learners: Emerging Districts Initiative

To: Superintendents of Schools
From: David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education
Date: May 19, 2003

The Department of Education is pleased to invite teams from districts with emerging English Language Learner populations to a professional development and planning opportunity. We are aware that many small and medium-sized districts have experienced a significant growth in English language learners (limited English proficient students) in the last five years. The Emerging Districts Initiative is intended to assist districts in effectively serving these students.

Teams will attend a 1½ day session in July, and a one-day session in October at one of two sites ([detailed information enclosed](#)). These sessions are being planned and implemented with assistance from the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL). By the end of the the planning sessions, participants will have familiarity with the initial identification and assessment of limited English proficient (LEP) students, the legal requirements for the education of LEP students, and the *English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes*. Sessions will also focus on the process for planning curriculum and instruction for English language learners, including an introduction to sheltering content instruction.

Superintendents of districts wishing to participate must agree to send a team of 2-3 representatives to all three days. Teams should include teachers and at least one administrator directly involved with the implementation and oversight of academic services to limited English proficient (LEP) students. We also expect superintendents to meet with their teams after both the summer and fall sessions. Upon confirmed registration, districts will be sent a preliminary data form to complete to assist in the development of a local plan for English language learners. Twenty Professional Development Points will be awarded to all participants who complete this professional development and planning initiative.

[Registration materials are attached](#)  Capacity for this professional development opportunity is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact Nyal Fuentes at (781) 338-3593 or nfuentes@doe.mass.edu.

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School and District Accountability

English Language Learners: Emerging Districts Initiative

The purpose of these sessions is to assist districts with emerging English language populations to build capacity to serve limited English proficient (LEP) students. Teams from "emerging districts" will participate actively in two full-day and one half-day sessions concerning planning for English language learners. By the end of the series participants will have familiarity with the initial identification and assessment of limited English proficient students, a legal and instructional framework for the education of LEP students, a plan for improving the performance of English language learners, and an introduction to the *English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes*.

Overview

Topics covered by these sessions include:

- The identification and initial assessment of limited English proficient students.
- Commonly used assessment tools for English language learners
- Data-driven planning for English language learners
- Principles of second language acquisition that should inform program planning
- An introduction to the newly released *Massachusetts English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes*.
- Federal and state legal requirements concerning limited English proficient students

District representatives will also create a local plan for English language learners based on a template provided by the Department of Education.

Participants

Superintendents of districts with fewer than 100 LEP students who wish to participate must agree to send a team of 2-3 representatives to commit to a three-session series that will focus on the initial assessment of English language learners, planning for educational services and a familiarization with the *English Language Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes*. Participants may include teachers or administrators directly involved with the implementation of services in districts with growing numbers of limited English proficient (LEP) students.

At least one administrator responsible for the oversight of programming for LEP students should participate to ensure planning is coordinated with existing district or school improvement plans. Upon registration, participants will be sent a confirmation letter, directions to the host site and an initial data sheet concerning English language learners in their district.

Schedule

Region 1	Quinsigamond Community College	Day 1	Monday July 21, 2003	8:00 AM Check In 8:30AM-3PM Session
		Day 2	Tuesday July 22, 2003	8:00AM Check In 8:30AM-12:30PM Session

		Day 3	Monday October 6, 2003	Location will be confirmed. 8:00AM Check In 8:30AM-3PM Session
Region 2	Cape Cod Community College	Day 1	Thursday July 24, 2003	8:00 AM Check In 8:30AM-3PM Session
		Day 2	Friday July 25, 2003	8:00AM Check In 8:30AM-12:30PM Session
		Day 3	Tuesday October 7, 2003	Location will be confirmed. 8:00AM Check In 8:30AM-3PM Session

*Continental Breakfast will be served each morning from 8:00-8:30 AM

*Lunch will be served on full days.

*Optional "brown bag lunch" discussions will be offered at each site following Session 2, concerning the academic achievement of English language learners and unique issues of small emerging programs.

Additional Information

Capacity is limited for this professional development opportunity and registration is on a first come basis. One registration form should be completed for each district team attending. Please return the attached registration form to:

Lien Hoang
Accountability and Targeted Assistance
Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main St.
Malden, MA 02148

If you need additional information, contact Nyal Fuentes at nfuentes@doe.mass.edu or (781) 338-3593

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000

English Language Learners in Emerging Districts Initiative Team Registration Form

District: _____

Superintendent: _____

Superintendent's signature: _____

Members of Team

Name:	Mailing Address
Position:	
Email:	
Circle: ? Elementary ?Middle ? High School ?District-Wide Position	

Name:	Mailing Address
Position:	
Email:	
Circle: ? Elementary ?Middle ? High School ?District-Wide Position	

Name:	Mailing Address
Position:	
Email:	
Circle: ? Elementary ?Middle ? High School ?District-Wide Position	

Briefly describe what academic services are available for English language learners in your district: _____

Please check one site that your team will be attending:

- **Quinsigamond Community College July 21, July 22, October 6**

- **Cape Cod Community College July 24, July 25, October 7**

Early registration is advised due to limited space. Participants will be registered on a first come basis. All registrations must be received by June 15, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact Nyal Fuentes at (781) 338-3593 or nfuentes@doe.mass.edu.

Please mail to:

Lien Hoang
Accountability and Targeted Assistance
Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main St.
Malden, MA 02148

Fax: (781) 338-3318
Phone: (781) 338-3534