



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Commissioner's Update

December 20, 2004

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this Update are 4 announcements and 2 items posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

December SIMS Collection

The December 1 data collection for students with disabilities has begun, as required for federal reporting purposes. The data are very similar to the SIMS data that was collected for October 1 but the federal report does not allow us to use data collected in October. The collection process is the same as it was last year: you should submit your data files through the SPED MDCS application on the DOE security portal.

These data need to be submitted by January 6, and I appreciate your timely cooperation. For more information, please go to <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/schedule.html> and <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/sims/schedule.html>.

Energy Savings

The U.S. Department of Energy and the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources will be co-hosting a free seminar on "Energy Savings Performance Contracting" for schools and commercial businesses. The seminar will take place at the Sheraton Framingham on January 20, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Technical experts will discuss details of performance contracting such as: its statutory basis in Massachusetts; how to benchmark key steps in developing a successful performance contract; defining the role of utility energy efficiency funds; and setting measurement and verification standards for cost savings. The sponsoring agencies will describe how schools can utilize operating funds for performance contracting while avoiding the need to seek additional capital funding from the school committee or municipality. I encourage school business officials, superintendents, facility managers, school committee members and all interested parties to attend. For more information, please go to http://energysmartamerica.org/seminars/01202005_BostonMA_ETS.htm.


Dollars for Scholars

I would like to call your attention to "New England Dollars for Scholars," a regional support system and part of a national network of over 1200 grassroots scholarship foundations that raise funds and provide financial and academic support to local students. I encourage you to share this information with your guidance counselors and families. Program information can be found at www.dollarsforscholarsne.org.

Second Annual Student Art Contest Sponsored by MEFA

The Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, MEFA, announces its second annual college savings art competition for all Massachusetts public and private school students in grades 3, 4 and 5. Details about the competition will be mailed to you and elementary school principals soon, and a contest website will be available later in January at www.mefa.org/contest/.

Here are 2 items posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. The John and Abigail Adams Scholarships and the Stanley Z. Koplík Certificate of Mastery Awards 
2. Advanced Placement Examination Fee Subsidy, Income Eligibility Guidelines, and AP Course

Verification



I want to wish you and your educators, students and families all the best for a wonderful holiday season and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Awards & Scholarships

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarships and the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards

To: Superintendents, High School Principals, Charter School Directors, Collaborative Directors, Directors of Approved Private Special Education Schools, and Guidance Counselors

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: December 20, 2004

I would like to update you on the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships and the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

In early December Superintendents and Charter School Directors received letters from Governor Romney for the students of the Class of 2005 who were awarded John and Abigail Adams Scholarships. Available for the first time to this year's high school graduating class, this new scholarship is based on a student's performance on the grade 10 English language arts and Mathematics assessments of MCAS.

Massachusetts public high school students automatically qualify for the Adams Scholarship when they

1. score in the Advanced category in either the Mathematics or the English language arts section of the grade 10 MCAS test;
2. score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the second subject (Mathematics or English language arts); and
3. have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

The Department of Education does not have the authority to administer MCAS tests to private school students; hence they are not eligible for the Adams Scholarships at this time. Students who enroll in a Massachusetts public high school in the eleventh grade may take the high school English language arts and Mathematics MCAS tests in their junior year. In order to compete for eligibility for the Adams Scholarship, this group of eleventh graders must participate in the standard spring Grade 10 MCAS tests. Unlike the Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award, the Adams Scholarship does not require students to document other academic achievements such as AP or SATII scores.

The Adams Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for eight traditional semesters of undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts, the seven state colleges, or fifteen community colleges. In order to use the tuition waivers students must first apply to the colleges or universities and be accepted. Students who receive the Adams Scholarship must complete their college studies in four years or less and maintain a 3.0 grade point average. A list of the community colleges, state colleges, and university campuses at which the Adams Scholarship may be used accompanies this memorandum. Please note that the Massachusetts College of Art and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy are special mission institutions that are not included in this new waiver program.

Governor Mitt Romney, Chancellor of Higher Education Judith Gill, and I are pleased to be able to award these scholarships to our high achieving students and we hope they will explore the excellent opportunities available in our public colleges and universities. I want to thank you and your guidance counselors for your

continued efforts to assist high school students to succeed academically. If you have questions about the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship program, please consult the Board of Higher Education's Office of Student Financial Aid at <http://www.ofsa.mass.edu>. You may also contact the Massachusetts Department of Education's Office of Student Assessment at 781-338-3625.

The Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards

The Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award will continue for the Class of 2005 and each class thereafter. Graduating seniors who receive the Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award will be eligible for a tuition waiver for up to eight continuous semesters at Massachusetts public universities, state colleges, and community colleges. The waiver does not apply to fees, private institutions of higher education in or out of state, or to any reciprocal academic programs between Massachusetts' public colleges and universities and out of state institutions of higher education. It should be noted that a Koplik Certificate of Mastery recipient may also be awarded the Adams Scholarship described above. For such students, however, the college or university may waive tuition under one program only.

In the fall of 2003, guidance counselors received lists of members of the Class of 2005 whose MCAS scores initially qualified them for this Award. Many students haven taken or will take the SATII or Advanced Placement exams, or plan to participate in other rigorous academic competitions to fulfill all the requirements for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award. I ask you to encourage these students to apply for this Award.

Last year, the Department began using Virtual Education Space (VES) as a secure way to provide guidance counselors with information about the Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards. In December the application forms for the 2004-2005 Awards will be posted. Beginning this year, each high school's Koplik Certificate of Mastery coordinator will process all applications using his or her VES account. High schools that have yet to either (a) identify a counselor to process the Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards or (b) request a VES account, need to do so by contacting Richard Salus at 781-338-6252 or at rsalus@doe.mass.edu.

I appreciate your sharing this important information with colleagues, students and parents, and thank you for your continuing commitment to providing greater educational opportunity for all students.

Beginning with the fall semester of 2005, the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships may be used at these Massachusetts community colleges, state colleges, and universities.

Community Colleges

- Berkshire Community College
www.cc.berkshire.org
Admissions: (413) 499-4660 x. 242
Financial Aid: (413) 496-9511
- Bristol Community College
www.bristol.mass.edu
Admissions: (508) 678-2811 x. 2516
Financial Aid: (508) 678-2811 x. 2515
- Bunker Hill Community College
www.bhcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (617) 228-2101
Financial Aid: (617) 228-2275
- Cape Cod Community college
www.capecod.mass.edu
Admissions: (508) 362-2131 x. 4311
Financial Aid: (508) 362-2131 x. 4393
- Greenfield Community College
www.gcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (413) 775-1801
Financial Aid: (413) 775-1109
- Holyoke Community College
www.hcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (413) 538-7000 x. 2850
Financial Aid: (413) 552-2150
- Massachusetts Bay Community College
www.massbay.edu
Admissions: (781) 239-2500
Financial Aid: (781) 239-2600

- Massasoit Community College
www.massasoit.mass.edu
Admissions: (508) 588-9100 x. 1411
Financial Aid: (508) 588-9100 x. 1479
- Middlesex Community College
www.middlesex.mass.edu
Admissions: (978) 656-3370 x. 3207
Financial Aid: (978) 656-3370 x. 7202
- Mount Wachusett Community College
www.mwcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (978) 630-9110
Financial Aid: (978) 630-9169
- North Shore Community College
www.northshore.edu
Admissions: (978) 762-4000 x. 4333
Financial Aid: (978) 762-4000 x. 4471
- Northern Essex Community College
www.necc.mass.edu
Admissions: (978) 556-3700
Financial Aid: (978)-556-3650
- Quinsigamond Community College
www.qcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (508) 854-4262
Financial Aid: (508) 854-4261
- Roxbury Community College
www.rcc.mass.edu
Admissions: (617) 541-5310
Financial Aid: (617) 541-5310
- Springfield Technical Community College
www.stcc.edu
Admissions: (413) 755-3333
Financial Aid: (413) 755-3333

State Colleges

- Bridgewater State College
www.bridgew.edu
Admissions: (508) 531-1237
Financial Aid: (508) 531-1341
- Fitchburg State College
www.fsc.edu
Admissions: (978) 665-3144
Financial Aid: (978) 665-3156
- Framingham State College
www.framingham.edu
Admissions: (508) 626-4500
Financial Aid: (508) 626-4534
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
www.mcla.edu
Admissions: (413) 662-5410
Financial Aid: (413) 662-5219
- Salem State College
www.salemstate.edu
Admissions: (978) 542-6200
Financial Aid: (978) 542-6112
- Westfield State College
www.wsc.ma.edu/
Admissions: (413) 572-5218
Financial Aid: (413) 572-5218
- Worcester State College
www.worcester.edu
Admissions: (508) 929-8040
Financial Aid: (508) 929-8056

University of Massachusetts

- University of Massachusetts Amherst
www.umass.edu
Admissions: (413) 545-0222
Financial Aid: (413) 545-0801
- University of Massachusetts Boston
www.umb.edu
Admissions: (617) 287-6100
Financial Aid: (617) 287-6300
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
www.umassd.edu
Admissions: (508) 999-8605
Financial Aid: (508) 999-8857
- University of Massachusetts Lowell
www.uml.edu
Admissions: (978) 934-3931
Financial Aid: (978) 934-4220

Note: Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Massachusetts College of Art are specialty institutions and are not included in this list. Please contact these colleges to inquire about eligibility for free tuition under the Adams Scholarships.

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Advanced Placement Incentive Program

Advanced Placement Examination Fee Subsidy

To: Advanced Placement Coordinators and Guidance Counselors

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: December 20, 2004

This year, as in past years, Massachusetts will be seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Education for Advanced Placement Examination Fee Subsidy grant monies. The purpose of these monies is to reduce the cost of an Advanced Placement Examination for students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses who meet the eligibility guidelines.

For public, private and parochial school students who meet the eligibility guidelines, the cost of an Advanced Placement examination will be reduced from \$82 to \$10.

To be eligible for an Advanced Placement fee subsidy, a student must be:

- a. eligible for free or reduced priced school lunches under the National School Lunch Act.; or
- b. receiving assistance under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act; or
- c. eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program in Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

High school students may be reluctant to apply for this assistance because it requires providing documentation of their family's financial status¹; therefore, it is important that you assure your students that all family income information will remain confidential. Consequently, you will need to maintain a secure file to prevent such information from leaving the guidance office.

Later this school year, the Educational Testing Service (The College Board) will send you an Advanced Placement exam order form. The form will include instructions on how to order the Advanced Placement exams at a reduced fee for your income eligible students.

 **2004-2005 Income Eligibility Guidelines**

  **Advanced Placement Exam Fee Subsidy Form**

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Richard Salus at (781) 338-6252 or by e-mail at rsalus@doe.mass.edu.

¹ please refer to 2004-05 family income eligibility chart.



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Advanced Placement Incentive Program

2004-2005 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	Family Income
1	\$17,224
2	\$23,107
3	\$28,990
4	\$34,873
5	\$40,756
6	\$46,639
7	\$52,522
8	\$58,405

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$5,883 for each additional family member.

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COVER PAGE

To: The Secure File of.....

From: Advanced Placement Coordinator

Date:

Re: Advanced Placement Exam Fee Subsidy

This is to certify that : Name of Student.....

Address.....

.....

High School.....

SASID Number_____

qualifies for an Advanced Placement Examination Fee Subsidy

The above student is enrolled in the following Advanced Placement course(s)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please complete a cover page for each student. A cover page needs to be attached to each student's supporting documentation of eligibility for an Advanced Placement Exam Fee Subsidy.

This information needs to be maintained in a secure file and be treated as confidential.

