



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Commissioner's Update

April 21, 2005

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:







I have just one announcement and five items for your review in this update.

MCAS Question Search

I am pleased to present the MCAS Question Search, an online tool to provide educators, parents, and students with the opportunity to search through and print more than 2,500 MCAS test items administered to students between 1998 and 2004. The tool allows multiple-choice and short-answer questions to be displayed with or without answers, and sample student responses can be reviewed for open-response questions and writing prompts. Users can search for questions based on several criteria, including the year, grade level and subject area of the tests in which items appeared, and a search can also be launched by applying selected keywords.

In the future, additional items will be made available on the MCAS Question Search located at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html>. I believe that this new service will go far in helping to improve student performance, and I welcome your feedback. Please send us your comments and suggestions by completing the response form located at this link.

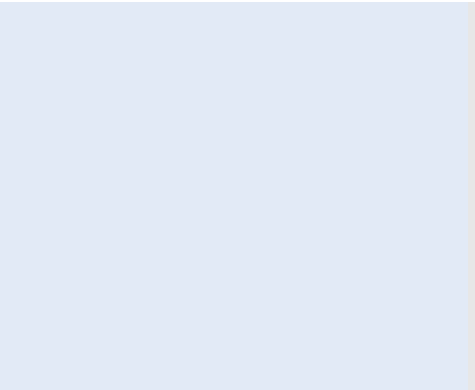
Here are five new items posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Statewide Networking Conference
 
2. Annual Title I Conference

3. Title I Grant-Writing Workshops

4. Annual School Committee Vote on School Choice Participation for FY 2005-2006

5. National Consumers League Student Financial Literacy Program, "LifeSmarts"


During this school vacation week, I hope that you are taking some time to enjoy the delightful spring weather.

All the best, and

Sincerely,



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department Of Education



QUALITY FULL-DAY
KINDERGARTEN
STATEWIDE NETWORKING
CONFERENCE

May 10, 2005
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
Marlboro, MA

Keynote Addresses:

- *Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan, Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy, Columbia University and Professor Adjunct at Yale University's Child Study Center*

and

- *Dr. Robert Pianta, William Clay Parrish Professor, Curry School of Education, University of VA*





*Overview of the Day
May 10, 2005*

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 10:45	Keynote Addresses: Sharon Lynn Kagan - <i>"Beyond Transitions: A New Look at Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten"</i> Robert Pianta - <i>"Ready Schools: Transition Practices and Quality Classrooms"</i>
11:00 - 1:00	Morning Sessions
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 4:00	Afternoon Sessions

Who should attend:

Paraprofessionals
Kindergarten Teachers
Public School Administrators
(principals, grant coordinators, special education directors)

All public schools may send a team of three people.
It is preferred that a district send a team with one member from each of the above mentioned groups.

Workshops:

Curriculum
Assessment
Inclusion
Implementing Quality Full-Day Kindergarten
Federal Initiatives



Directions:

From Boston:

Take Massachusetts Pike West (Route 90), to Exit 11A and go to Route 495 North. Take Exit 24B onto Route 20 West. The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center entrance is located 1 mile west on the right hand side.

From Worcester:

Take Route 290 East to Exit 26A. Then take Route 495 South to Exit 24B and onto Route 20 West. The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center entrance is located 1 mile west on the right hand side.

From Springfield & Western Massachusetts:

Take the Massachusetts Pike East (Route 90) to Exit 11A. Then take Route 495 North to Exit 24B and onto Route 20 West. The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center entrance is located 1 mile west on the right hand side.

From Cape Cod:

Take Route 495 North to Exit 24B and onto Route 20 West. The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center entrance is located 1 mile west on the right hand side.

Morning Sessions	Afternoon Sessions
M1 Ready for Teddy: A Comprehensive Health Curriculum	A1 Science in Kindergarten
M2 Kindergarten in Reading First Schools	A2 Developing Statewide Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines in History and Social Science
M3 Consistency Not Conformity: Implementing Standards in Mathematics for Kindergarten Children	A3 Using the Arts to Enhance Kindergarten Learning Experiences
M4 Sensory Integration Strategies for Early Childhood	A4 Study Groups: Improving Social Studies Curriculum in Arlington
M5 Full-Day Kindergarten: How'd They Do That?	A5 Para-educators in Inclusive Settings
M6 A School-Based Assessment Begins in Kindergarten!	A6 Assessment in the Kindergarten Classroom-Putting It All Together!
M7 Round Table Discussion with Sharon Lynn Kagan	A7 No Child Left Behind: Implications and Opportunities
M8 Round Table Discussion with Robert Pianta	A8 Administrative Networking Session
M9 Math Rich Environments to Support Understanding	A9 The Role of Language in Fostering Literacy Success

Please select your first and second choice.
Workshop descriptions are on pages 4-8.
Registration form is on page 9.





Federal Initiatives:

Kindergarten in Reading First Schools

Morning - M2

The workshop will share the experiences of kindergarten teachers who are implementing skills-based developmentally appropriate reading curricula in Reading First schools.

- Cheryl Lieblich, Ph.D., Director of Reading, DOE
- Suzanne Maheux, Susan Kazerord, Chicopee, Stefanik School
- Bethany Barbagallo, Carol Walsh, Lawrence, Parthum School
- Bonnie Dalimonte, Kindergarten Teacher, Webster Public Schools
- Jackie Skrocki, Reading First Reading Specialist, Webster Public Schools

No Child Left Behind and Kindergarten: Implications and Opportunities

Afternoon - A7

What does the NCLB law say that pertains to kindergarten? What challenges and opportunities does NCLB present to kindergarten teachers and elementary administrators? This session will provide an overview of NCLB and provide ample time for discussion and interaction.

- Kristie Kauertz, Program Director-Early Learning, Education Commission of the States

Curriculum:

Science in Kindergarten

Afternoon - A1

This workshop will address the classroom implications for the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework in Science and Technology/Engineering. Participants will engage in some hands-on exploration and discussion around science experiences appropriate for kindergarten.

- Jeff Winokur, Early Childhood and Elementary Science Specialist, Wheelock College and Education Development Center

Ready for Teddy: A Comprehensive Health Curriculum

Morning - M1

Participants will learn step-by-step how to design and implement a whole-class curriculum linking the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework with heart-warming results. This curriculum is, based on work from the Bank Street School Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice and easily adapted for preschool through Grade 3, including children with disabilities. Questions and Teddy Bears welcome!

- Julie Culhane, Director of Early Childhood Programs, Hampshire RSD
- Molly Burnham, Kindergarten teacher, Northampton Public Schools
- Charlene Zgrodnek, Grade 2 teacher, Northampton Public Schools
- Kindergarten staff from Northampton and/or Amherst-Pelham Public Schools



Curriculum:

Sensory Integration Strategies for Early Childhood

Morning - M4

This session will provide background on sensory integration challenges facing many early childhood students. Emphasis will be placed on experimental centers and classroom activities that will support children with sensory integration issues as they access the inclusive general curriculum. Activities will be linked to MA Curriculum Frameworks/Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences.

- *Mary Curro, Academic Coordinator for Kindergarten, Holyoke Public Schools*

- *Diane Fabig, Catherine Dunn, Eileen Shea, and Lisa Liquori, Occupational Therapists, Holyoke Public Schools*

Consistency Not Conformity: Implementing Standards in Mathematics for Kindergarten Children

Morning - M3

The growing emphasis on standards is changing the kindergarten curriculum in the United States. This workshop presents a matrix for selecting instructional materials and strategies in mathematics for young children that allow for teacher creativity while ensuring that all children have opportunities to learn to the standards. Participants will engage in examining student work and teaching materials and matching them to strands from the Learning Standards outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics.

- *Mary L. Russo, Principal, Richard J. Murphy Elementary School, Boston Public Schools, 2004 Passios Award for Principal of the Year*

- *Susan Adler, Education Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Education*

Math Rich Environments to Support Understanding

Morning - M9

This workshop will help teachers maximize opportunities to reinforce and extend emerging mathematical understanding. Common routines and areas of kindergarten rooms will be revisited with an eye to math-rich moments.

- *Vicky Milstein, Early Childhood Coordinator, Brookline Public Schools*



Curriculum:

Developing Statewide Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines in History and Social Science: A Report of the Massachusetts Kindergarten Curriculum and Teacher Leadership Project

Afternoon - A2

Participants will gain an understanding of the process and product of a multi-year curriculum project developed under the auspices of the Massachusetts Department of Education. They will connect standards-based curriculum to active learning and the NAEYC accreditation criteria and they will identify challenges and practical solutions to teaching and learning history and social science in kindergarten classrooms.

- *Janice Simpson, Kindergarten teacher/Early Childhood Coordinator, Millis Public Schools*

- *Sarah Davila, Grant writer/ELL Program Implementation Specialist, Somerville Public Schools*

Using the Arts to Enhance Kindergarten Learning Experiences

Afternoon - A3

This workshop will introduce educators to specific strategies for addressing the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework. Participants will explore using the visual arts, movement, theatre arts, and music to address standards in academic content areas such as English Language Arts and Mathematics.

- *Charles J. Washburn, Executive Director, VSA Arts of Massachusetts*

Study Groups: Improving Social Studies Curriculum in Arlington

Afternoon - A4

This interactive and collaborative workshop will share recent work done in Arlington, MA related to aligning both developmentally appropriate learning practices and Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework with multi-cultural children's literature. Attendees will discover what's hot and what's not in multicultural children's literature as they evaluate the various children's books. Attendees will create their own lesson plan incorporating History and Social Science standards from children's literature.

- *Pam Watts Flavin, MSLIS, Adjunct Professor, Lesley University*

- *Mary Villano, Supervisor, Menotomy Pre School*

- *Judi Bohn, Kindergarten Grant Coordinator*

- *Sara Smith, Emily Ruggles, Bridget Gigliotti, Kindergarten Teachers*

- *John Kent, Chair, K-12 Social Studies*



Assessment:

A School-Based System of Assessment Begins in Kindergarten!

Morning - M6

This session provides a glimpse of assessment practice in two Cambridge kindergarten classes where ongoing documentation and assessment guide learning opportunities. Observations, portfolio collections, children's reflections, and family participation in making learning visible are part of a schoolwide system of assessment (K-8).

- Diane Griggs and Lorna Holland, Kindergarten Teachers

- Lynn Stuart, Former Principal, Cambridgeport School, Cambridge Public Schools

The Role of Language In Fostering Literacy Success

Afternoon - A9

This presentation will review research findings that highlight the importance of oral language to children's early and long-term literacy development. It also will describe strategies that can be used to support language development in early childhood classrooms.

- David Dickinson, Professor, Boston College

Assessment in the Kindergarten -Together and Making it Work

Afternoon - A6

The session will focus on the creation of a workable classroom assessment system aligned with standards, that will help teachers make classroom instructional decisions while at the same time be easy to record and useful for responding to various evaluation demands, such as report cards. A good assessment system must provide information that will help a teacher better scaffold learning for each child, but it must also do double, sometimes triple, duty by informing parents, administrators, and others. The session will also cover issues in assessment facing kindergarten teachers, such as mandated testing, and issues of comparability between classrooms.

- Elena Bodrova, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Early Education Research, Aurora, CO

- Deborah Leong, Professor, National Institute for Early Education Research, Metropolitan State College of Denver

Inclusion:

Para-educators in Inclusive Settings

Afternoon - A5

This workshop will discuss best practices for para-educators in inclusive kindergarten programs. We will explore the importance of training and supervision as well as specific role responsibilities. Examples of the existing curriculum for para-educators, teachers, and administrators will be provided.

- Heidi Meikrantz, M.Ed., Coordinator of Research and Development,
Autism Specialist, SEEM Collaborative



Implementing Full-Day Kindergarten:

Full-Day Kindergarten: How'd They Do That?

Morning - M5

Representatives from three different communities will share their experiences in the development of full-day kindergarten programs. The Presentation will include use of grant funds dealing with space issues, transportation, staff training, classroom assignments, daily schedule, and community outreach.

- Carole Poirier, Assistant to the Superintendent, Norwood Public Schools
- Virginia Ceruti, Principal, Willett Early Childhood Center
- Alice Brennan, Curriculum Specialist, Shrewsbury Public Schools
- Judi Bohn, Partners in Education, Arlington, MA

Administrative Networking Session

Afternoon - A8

This session is designed for the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten grant administrators and provides participants with an opportunity to discuss grant related initiatives with the Department staff.

- Donna Traynham, Early Learning Services, Department of Education
- Carolina Buitrago, Consultant

Round Table Discussions

(Limited to 50 Participants for Each Round Table Discussion)

Round Table Discussion with *Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan*

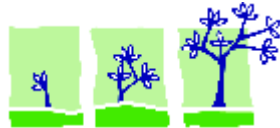
Morning - M7

“Beyond Transitions: A New Look at Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten”

Round Table Discussion with *Dr. Robert Pianta*

Morning - M8

“Ready Schools: Transition Practices and Quality Classrooms”



EARLY LEARNING
Education starts here

Registration Form

To ensure enough space for all districts to participate, districts are asked to register a team of three people. Early Learning Services suggests sending one administrator, teacher, and paraprofessional. Please fax your registration to Nermina Peric @ 781-338-3370 by May 4, 2005.

School District _____

Phone number _____ E mail _____

Contact person's name _____

Administrator's name: _____

Morning Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Afternoon Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Teacher's name: _____

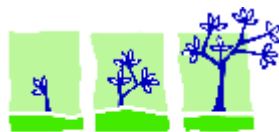
Morning Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Afternoon Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Paraprofessional's name: _____

Morning Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Afternoon Session 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____



EARLY LEARNING
Education starts here

Early Learning Services
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/els>

Phone: 781-338-6364
Fax: 781-338-3370
Email: nperic@doe.mass.edu

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TITLE I: OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITY
THE 29TH ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS TITLE I CONFERENCE

MAY 10-13, 2005

This page will be updated very soon, but in the mean time, all information pertaining to the 2005 Annual Title I Conference, "Oceans of Opportunity", can be found here:

[2005 Conference Packet](#)

Any additional questions? Please contact the Title I Dissemination Project, Inc. at 781-979-9100.

Thank you!



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- > NCLB and Title I
- > Title I Grant Applications
- > Coordinated Program Review
- > Neglected or Delinquent Programs
- > Comprehensive School Reform
- > Dissemination Project
- > Contact Us

District/School Resources > PK-16 Program Support >

Title I

Title I Grant Application Workshops

To: Title I Directors

From: Barbara Solomon, State Title I Director

Date: April 21, 2005

We have scheduled technical assistance sessions to help school district administrators to plan the FY2006 Title I program and develop the required grant application. Districts submitting either stand-alone or consolidated grant applications are encouraged to participate in these sessions. Department of Education (DOE) staff will address specific Title I grant submission requirements. For your convenience, workshops are offered at three sites. Title I budget/grant preparation sessions are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- May 26 - [Sheraton, Springfield](#)**
- June 1 - [Randolph, Lantana](#)**
- June 7 - [Marlborough, Best Western/Royal Plaza, Marlboro](#)**

During the afternoon, DOE staff members will be available to provide individual and small group assistance. These sessions will provide an overview of all components of the required FY 2006 Title I grant proposal submissions, general expectations, and information on the Department's review process. The tentative agenda and directions are attached. Please register each attendee from your district online by visiting: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=118>.

Tentative Agenda Title I Application Sessions

8:15 - 8:45 Registration, Refreshments and Networking

8:45 - 9:15 General Session: Framing the Day and New Electronic Submission Process

Session I

- 9:15- 10:00**
 - Budget Preparation
 - Assessing Student Needs and Evaluating Program Impact
 - Serving Eligible Private School Students
 - State Licensure and Highly Qualified Requirements
 - Parent Involvement and Requirements Under NCLB

Session II

- 10:15-11:00**
- An Overview of Neglected or Delinquent Services
 - Selecting Schools and Allocating Funds
 - Choice/Supplemental Services/Corrective Action/Restructuring
 - Targeted Assistance Program Requirements: Student Selection
 - Schoolwide Program Requirements

Session III

- 11:15-12:00**
- Budget Preparation
 - State Licensure and Highly Qualified Requirements
 - Assessing Student Needs and Evaluating Program Impact
 - Serving Eligible Private School Students
 - Choice/Supplemental Services/Corrective Action/Restructuring

12:00- 1:00 Lunch

Session IV

- 1:00-1:45**
- Budget Preparation
 - Parent Involvement and Requirements Under NCLB
 - Targeted Assistance Program Requirements: Student Selection
 - Selecting Schools and Allocating Funds (1:00-2:30 extended session)
 - An Overview of Neglected or Delinquent Services (1:00-2:30 extended session)

1:45-3:30 Individual Technical Assistance and Questions and Answers

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 - Recent Updates
- › Accounting & Auditing
- › Chapter 70 Program (Foundation Budget)
- › Charter Schools
- › Circuit Breaker
- › DOE Budget
- › Federal Renovation Program
- › Grants: Information
- › Nutrition Programs (School Lunch)
- › Per Pupil Expenditure Reports
- › School Building Issues
- › School Choice
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- › Statistical Comparisons
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School Choice

School Year 2005-2006 School Choice Receiving District Status

Updated on April 12 2005

Each year, school committees must consider whether their district should be in the school choice program during the upcoming school year. School districts that **choose not to accept school choice pupils from other districts must take a vote to that effect and report the result of the vote to the Department by the June 1, 2005**. They may also choose to accept new pupils but only in certain grades. They may also choose to specify the number of available openings. If there are more applicants than available openings, a lottery should determine which pupils are accepted.

If no vote is taken, a district will automatically be identified as a choice receiving district.

Results of school committee votes about school choice status should be reported in writing or by email to:

**Phyllis Rogers
Office of School Finance
Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148-5023**

progers@doe.mass.edu

Results of votes reported to date are listed below. School choice districts with an asterisk are serving pupils accepted in past years, but have chosen not to enroll new pupils.

For information about contacting a district, see the Department's directory profiles at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

[Download the Excel File](#) OR

Print View



EVENTS CALENDAR

April 2005						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NEWS SEARCH

Keyword:

Target:

Dates:

Past 30 days

Past 90 days

Date Range

Start:

End:



Friday, April 15, 2005

LifeSmarts of Massachusetts

Dear Superintendents:

Earlier this year, I informed you of a public-private partnership between the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation and the National Endowment for Financial Education to provide free training and curriculum in Financial Literacy to schools. As I stated in the earlier letter: "Financial Literacy" is defined as the ability to read, analyze, manage and communicate about one's personal financial well being.

Since that time I have learned of LifeSmarts, another activity that can educate students in financial literacy. LifeSmarts is a program, run by the National Consumers League that encourages high school students to learn about the consumer issues they face today and the new challenges that are right around the corner. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston is the Massachusetts sponsor. This activity could be a good supplement to the NEFE financial literacy curriculum.

You can find more information about LifeSmarts National at www.lifesmarts.org and LifeSmarts Massachusetts at www.bos.frb.org/education/competitions/lifesmarts/index.htm.

I encourage you to share this information with your high school principals and others in your district that are interested in aiding students to develop financial literacy.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the 2005 Massachusetts LifeSmarts Champions from Palmer High School and their coach Helena Naglack.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education