



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

- > [Update Archive](#)
- > [Commissioner's Welcome](#)
- > [Commissioner's Checklist](#)



Commissioner's Update

June 26, 2006

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this Update I have two announcements and four items recently posted at www.doe.mass.edu for your review.

Competency Determination (CD) Update for the Classes of 2006 and 2007

I am pleased to announce that 95 percent of students in the Class of 2006 and 91 percent of students in the Class of 2007 have earned their Competency Determinations. These and other statewide and local results are included in the Progress Report on Students Attaining the Competency Determination Statewide and by School and District: Classes of 2006 and 2007. This report is now available on our website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/results.html.

Microsoft Software Donation

This month Microsoft announced a software donation believed to be the largest ever made to Massachusetts educational institutions. The gift will provide Massachusetts public high schools and universities with full access to the resources of the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance. This program offers a suite of Microsoft's latest software development tools, including Visual Studio, .NET and the MSDN Library reference. To learn more about how your schools can participate in this exciting opportunity please contact Microsoft Corporation at mamsdnaa@microsoft.com.

Postings at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. Preliminary 2006 MCAS Grade 10 Multiple-Choice Results



2. Technology Professional Development Opportunity



3. Final FY06 Charter School Tuition and Reimbursements



4. FY06 School Choice Tuition, June 2006



Congratulations to you all on another successful school year. I hope you will all find some time to relax this summer before gearing up for the fall.

Thank you again for the great work that you do for the children of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll



- > MCAS Home
- > School Notices
- > About The MCAS
 - Test Schedule
 - Test Items
 - Scoring Guides/Student Work
 - MCAS Results
- > MCAS Alternate Assessment
- > MEPA
- > NAEP
- > Publications
- > MCAS Performance Appeals
 - Parent Information Hotline
 - 1-866-MCAS220



Assessment/Accountability > MCAS >

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Preliminary 2006 MCAS Grade 10 Multiple-Choice Results

To: Superintendents, High School Principals, Charter School Leaders, and Directors of Approved Private Special Education Schools, Institutional Schools, and Educational Collaboratives

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: June 26, 2006

I am writing to inform you that the preliminary MCAS multiple-choice results for grade 10 students will be available this week at www.mcasservicecenter.com.

This year for the first time, high school principals, charter school leaders, directors of approved private special education schools, institutional schools, and collaboratives can access their data directly using their MCAS passwords.

The preliminary multiple-choice test item analysis data files contain student-level results in a format compatible with TestWiz, Microsoft Excel, and other data analysis software. **These files are confidential student records and may only be reviewed by authorized school personnel, students, and their parents and/or guardians in accordance with federal and state confidentiality laws.** Please distribute the test item analysis data and the accompanying interpretive information to each principal in your district as soon as possible. Please also ensure your district/school procedures for maintaining the electronic AND physical security of all confidential student data are rigorous and followed by everyone with potential access to this data.

The data files provide important preliminary information about the performance of high school students on the spring 2006 grade 10 tests. Although the data files do not contain open-response or composition results, you may use the information contained in the reports for the following purposes:

- Identify students' individual areas of need in order to provide, as necessary, immediate assistance to students enrolled in summer academic support programs.
- Inform curriculum and instructional activities planned for this summer.
- Plan appropriate fall activities for students likely to score at the *Failing* level.

Please note that grade 10 students who did not participate in the ELA and Mathematics tests (e.g. student with a medically documented absence) will appear in these files with blank raw scores. A brief guide for interpreting the preliminary multiple-choice test item analysis results is posted with the data files.

If you have any questions about the multiple choice data file posted at the MCAS Service Center Web site or need assistance related to your password, please contact the MCAS Service Center at (800) 737-5103.



- > EdTech Home
- > Technology Planning
- > Technology Standards
- > Technology Grants and Resources
- > Teacher Professionalism
- > Student Learning
- > Technology Toolkit
- > MassONE

District/School Administration > PK-16 Program Support >

Educational Technology

Technology Professional Development Opportunity

To: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders and Principals

From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

Date: June 20, 2006

In the upcoming school year, the Department will offer a unique professional development opportunity for administrators and teachers. The Partnership for Technology Professional Development (PTPD) will offer courses through three of the top professional providers in the state: The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), The Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA), and Virtual High School (VHS).

Approximately seven courses will be offered in three periods: December 2006 to Feb. 2007, March to May 2007, and June to August 2007. Courses will include topics such as 21st century literacy skills, curriculum design, data-driven decision making, maximizing learning with digital media, meeting the needs of diverse learners, and engaging students using MassONE's online components. Courses will be delivered using a combination of online and face-to-face approaches, with meeting locations throughout Massachusetts. All courses will use MassONE as the delivery system and will model best practices in online learning using MassONE. The courses will be offered at no cost to the participants.

Worcester Public Schools, the lead partner in this grant, will work with the Department of Education to coordinate the program. In addition, Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE) will provide input on course content, and Sun Associates will provide formative and summative evaluation services.

The PTPD will use a train-the-trainer model, offering a cost-effective way to build a district's capacity to use technology in teaching and learning. In order to get the maximum benefit from the program, the Department recommends that districts enroll teams of administrators and teachers.

The Department suggests that each participating teacher be paid a \$100 stipend, either from NCLB Title IID Entitlement Grants (Fund Code 160) funds or from district funds, to participate in a PTPD course and then share the knowledge gained with other educators in the district. The Department will award PDP points for these activities.

Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with preference given to districts that are enrolling teams, followed by those offering stipends to teachers. Additional details about the courses and registration process will be provided in the fall.

Interested districts should consider including stipends in their NCLB Title IID Entitlement Grants (Fund Code 160) budget so that their teachers and administrators can participate in this innovative program. For more information about the program, contact Susan Hargrave at shargrave@doe.mass.edu or 781-338-6844.



- › Finance/Grants
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
- › Regional Districts
- › School Building Issues
- › School Choice
- › School Finance Regulations
- › Statistical Comparisons
- › Transportation
- › Vocational Education
- › Key Contacts
- › Links

School Finance: Charter Schools

Final FY06 Charter School Tuition and Reimbursements

During the 2005 - 2006 school year Massachusetts' 50 Commonwealth charter schools served a total of 19,797 pupils. Below you will find several links to final FY06 charter school tuition and reimbursement data. These amounts will be used by the Department of Revenue for the purpose of certifying the June 30, 2006 local aid distribution.

The data provided below reflect final full-time equivalent enrollment across the entire school year as reported by each charter school this spring.

- [FY06 CHARTER TUITION AND REIMBURSEMENT](#): This page details each district's full-time equivalent pupils at all charter schools (Column 1); the amount of local, transportation and facilities tuition being assessed (Column 4); the amount of direct state subsidy for pupils who were in private or home-schooled settings in FY05 (Column 7); the amount the Commonwealth is reimbursing each district for increase in charter tuition (Column 13); and the amount the Commonwealth is reimbursing each district for facilities tuition (Column 16).
- [FY06 CHARTER PUPILS AND TUITION](#): This page details the number of pupils at each charter school and the total dollars to be paid - including the state subsidy for previously private or home-schooled pupils. Three charter schools exceeded their projected enrollment slightly. In accordance with statute, the enrollment used in their tuition calculations was reduced to that projected number.
- [FY06 CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION RATE CALCULATIONS](#): Reports showing the full detail behind the tuition rate calculations.
- [FY06 CHARTER SCHOOL PUPIL ROSTERS](#). The pupil rosters for each sending district and charter school provide the underlying detail for the tuition assessments. School districts and charter schools can download these spreadsheets from DOE's secure web portal at www4.doemass.org.

Questions regarding charter school tuition and reimbursements may be addressed to Hadley Brett Cabral in School Finance at (781) 338-6586, or via email, at hcabral@doe.mass.edu.



- › Finance/Grants
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
- › Regional Districts
- › School Building Issues
- › School Choice
- › School Finance Regulations
- › Statistical Comparisons
- › Transportation
- › Vocational Education
- › Key Contacts
- › Links

School Finance: School Choice

FY06 School Choice Tuition, June 2006

June 19, 2006

The school choice assessment and tuition amounts due to be incorporated into the June 30, 2006 local aid distribution have been finalized. On June 30, 2006 the State Treasurer's office will process the remaining portion of the assessments and tuition, net of the amounts paid in the December, 2005 and March, 2006 quarterly local aid distributions.

By the end of June, superintendents of sending and receiving districts will be able to obtain their final school choice rosters and tuition amounts for each pupil. The information will be placed in the DOE security portal's school choice claim form dropbox. These spreadsheets will show each school choice pupil's name, address, enrollment dates, program, tuition and other information.

[A district summary](#) shows the number of full-time equivalent pupils and tuition amounts for the 150 receiving districts and 267 sending districts involved in this program. During FY06 there were 9,738 full-time equivalent pupils participating, with total tuition amounting to \$55,512,844.

[School Choice Tuition Rates](#) are calculated for regular and vocational programs. FY06 school choice tuition rates are set at 75 percent of the FY05 operating cost per full-time equivalent pupil for the receiving school district, with a cap of \$5,000. In addition, the actual special education cost for each special education pupil is paid in full by the sending district. That amount is determined using the same rate methodology for specific services as is used in the special education circuit-breaker program.

Preliminary FY06 school choice tuition rates are set at the FY05 operating cost per full-time equivalent pupil, for the receiving school district. If a district's FY05 End of Year Pupil and Financial Report appears to be in question, its previous year's rate is used. In such a case, the FY05 rate will not be available on this site until June when the preliminary calculations are next published.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Phyllis Rogers of the Office of School Finance, at (781) 338-6534 or via email at progers@doe.mass.edu.

[Print View](#)