



David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Commissioner's Update

January 23, 2007




Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this Update I have one announcement and three items for your review.

Student Government Day

"Student Government Day has been changed to Thursday, April 5, 2007 from the last week of April in anticipation of the House budget debate. All schools will receive written confirmation by the end of the month with additional information on student assignments and tentative schedule. If you have questions, please contact Sylvia Smith or Lonnie Powers in the Commissioner's office at 781 338-3102."

Items Posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. FY'07 Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief

2. Reminder to Register for the 2007 MCAS/MEPA Administration Workshops

3. Technology Conference


Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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School Finance: Circuit Breaker

FY'07 Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief

The special education reimbursement program (Circuit Breaker) as funded in the FY'07 budget, contains a \$3M set aside for districts that are experiencing high growth in special education costs from FY'06 to FY'07. These funds are available as extraordinary relief to districts whose FY'07 Circuit Breaker costs are expected to be 125% of FY'06 costs claimed. In order to claim for extraordinary relief, districts should send an e-mail to Lynn McKnight in School Business Services (lmcknight@doe.mass.edu) informing us of their intent to claim for relief.

Once we have received an intent to claim, we will prepare a district specific claim for expected FY'07 costs and schedule training sessions statewide. Files should be available in late February and trainings will be held in early March. Extraordinary Relief claims will be due March 30, 2007.

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 - Pathways to Success on MCAS
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 - Parent Hotline 1-866-MCAS220



Assessment/Accountability > MCAS >

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Reminder to Register for the 2007 MCAS/MEPA Administration Workshops

To: Superintendents, Principals, and Directors of Charter Schools, Approved Private Special Education Schools, Institutional Schools, Educational Collaboratives, and Alternative Adult/External Diploma Programs

From: MCAS Test Coordinators

Date: January 22, 2006

I am writing to remind you about the 2007 MCAS and MEPA administration workshops. As I announced in my [December 18, 2006 memorandum](#), the Department is offering both traditional face-to-face workshops and workshops delivered via telephone conference calls in February and March. Registration for workshops and conference calls must be made online (www.mcasservicecenter.com) by **February 1, 2007**. An afternoon session has been added in Peabody. Please refer to the December memo for information on session topics, dates, and registration.

As a reminder, each principal is responsible for ensuring that proper test administration procedures are followed in his or her school. It is strongly recommended that each principal participate in a conference call or attend a workshop. Although there is no limit on the number of staff members who participate in a conference call, attendance at face-to-face workshops is limited two individuals (assuming space is available) from each school.

Please contact the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103 if you have any questions.

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Educational Technology

Technology Conference

To: Superintendents, Collaborative Directors, Charter School Directors, Principals, and Technology Directors
From: David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education
Date: January 25, 2007

I would like to invite you and your staff to our 2007 technology conference focusing on how technology supports the goals of No Child Left Behind.

This all-day conference co-hosted by Bridgewater State College and held on its campus will feature an opening keynote by David Rose, co-founder of CAST; and a luncheon keynote by Bob Bickerton, Sr. Associate Commissioner at the Department. Breakout sessions with information on statewide initiatives, including the data warehouse project; panel discussions by technology grants recipients; and discussions of current technology issues are also planned. These presentations will provide an excellent opportunity for you and your staff to see examples of successful technology implementation.

For more information about the conference, as well as online registration, see our web site:
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/edtech/teacher/workshop.html>

I hope that you and members of your staff will be able to attend our conference on March 21.

Thank you.

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