

Jeffrey Nellhaus
 Acting Commissioner
 of Education

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



[RSS](#)

Commissioner's Update



February 7, 2008

Dear Superintendents, and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

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

"I am pleased to announce that the Requirements for the **Participation of Students with Disabilities in MCAS (2008 update)**   has been posted on the Department's Web site. A list of test accommodations for students with disabilities and the criteria for their use is included. Please take a few minutes to review this important document prior to the spring 2008 MCAS test administrations."

Items Posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. [Education Proficiency Plans](#)
2. [Off-Topic Compositions on MCAS English Language Arts Tests](#)
3. [Competency Determination Data Review](#)
4. MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt) Portfolios-in-Progress
 
5. [Preserve America History Teacher of the Year](#)
6. [Announcement of the George Washington Teachers' Institute](#)
7. [2008 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching](#)
8. [Seeking Individuals for Membership on the Family Literacy Research and Evaluation Advisory Group](#)

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Nellhaus
 Acting Commissioner of Education

last updated: February 7, 2008

- › MCAS Home
- › About the MCAS
- › MCAS/MEPA Test Schedule
- › Test Administration
- › Participation Requirements
- › Test Items
- › Student Work/Scoring Guides
- › MCAS Results
- › MCAS Alternate Assessment
- › MEPA
- › NAEP
- › Other Resources:
 - Pathways to Success on MCAS
 - MCAS Performance Appeals
 - MCAS Service Center
 - Adams Scholarship
 - Parent Hotline 1-866-MCAS220



Assessment/Accountability › MCAS ›

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Educational Proficiency Plans

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

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education

Date: February 5, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to assist you as you begin the implementation of the Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) requirement, which was adopted as regulation by the Massachusetts Board of Education in October 2006. The change to the Competency Determination (CD) standard (603 CMR.31.00) was made to significantly increase the proportion of Massachusetts high school students who attain proficiency or higher on our tenth grade standards in English language arts and mathematics and graduate from high school college and career ready. The Department will provide more detailed guidance on EPPs in March and over the upcoming months as needed.

Requirements for Earning a Competency Determination

Students, starting with the graduating Class of 2010, must satisfy one of the following two conditions in both English language arts and mathematics to earn a competency determination:

1. meet or exceed the Proficient scaled score of 240 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests, or
2. meet or exceed the Needs Improvement scaled score of 220 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan.

Students, starting with the graduating Class of 2010 shall, in addition to meeting the requirements described above, attain a minimum of Needs Improvement (scaled score of 220) on one of the high school end-of-course science tests (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering) <http://www.doe.mass.edu/>

[lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=all](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=all).

Educational Proficiency Plan Requirements

An EPP must be developed for the subject matter area(s) in English language arts and mathematics in which students did not meet or exceed a scaled score of 240.

At a minimum the EPP requires:

1. a review of the student's strengths and weaknesses, based on MCAS and other assessment results, coursework, grades, and teacher input;
2. identification of the courses the student will be required to take and successfully complete in grades 11 and 12; and
3. a description of the assessment(s) the school will administer on at least an annual basis to determine if the student is moving toward proficiency, or has become proficient on the grade 10 standards.



Early Student Identification

To begin the process of identifying students from the class of 2010 who may need an EPP, the following steps are recommended:

- review this year's 10th grade students' 9th and 10th grade coursework and grades;
- review the students' 7th/8th grade MCAS and other district administered assessments; and
- analyze the 10th grade MCAS preliminary information on multiple choice results, available in June, to develop the initial roster of students needing an EPP.

Resources for Planning the Implementation of Educational Proficiency Plans

In order to assist with the planning for the implementation of the new CD requirement for the class of 2010 and beyond, input was sought, starting in May 2007, from high school principals, guidance counselors, and vocational technical administrators in focus groups, and at several statewide conferences and regional meetings. This input has helped to inform the guidance described below to assist in the development of EPPs for students. This information can help students, parents, and the community understand the new Competency Determination standard and its implication, as well as to provide technical assistance to assist districts in establishing the infrastructure necessary to successfully implement the requirements of the EPP:

1. A Question and Answer document on the New Competency Determination Requirements and the Educational Proficiency Plan;
2. A link to a Power Point presentation at http://www.doe.mass.edu/hsreform/072607epp_mssaa.pps to help inform students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members of this new requirement;
3. A chart of the MassCore Program of Studies   to assist you in planning the courses students are encouraged to take in grades 11 and 12. MassCore is a recommended high school program of study that was

approved by the Board of Education in November 2007 (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=3805>); and

4. In March, additional guidance will be provided on the assessment(s) that are to be used to determine whether a student is moving toward Proficient on MCAS (scaled score of 240) or its "equivalent," sample templates that may be used to create a student's Educational Proficiency Plan, and a schedule of regional forums on the EPP and MassCore that will take place in April.

Assessments to be Used for Evaluating EPP Students' Progress

The Department is working to identify a number of assessment options that can be used by school districts to evaluate the academic progress made by a student served by an Educational Proficiency Plan. One of the options for school year 2008-2009 will be locally developed

English language arts and Mathematics tests. Other options currently under consideration include MCAS tests designed specifically for the EPP, Accuplacer tests currently used by Massachusetts public colleges and universities for course placement, and the new Algebra II test, which Massachusetts has developed in conjunction with Achieve Inc., and a number of other states and is being field-tested this year. Guidance on these options will be provided this spring.

Additional Academic Support funding will be made available this spring to assist districts with a high percentage of students potentially requiring an EPP. These funds can be used to identify students, to develop and plan for the implementation of the EPP for the upcoming school year, and to help inform students and their families about the EPP. Districts are also encouraged to use Academic Support funds for ongoing interventions in support of students in meeting the new CD standard.

Relationship between MassCore and EPP

MassCore is one of several Department policy initiatives designed to help increase college- and career-readiness. While the completion of MassCore is highly recommended for all students, it is of particular importance for those students who do not score Proficient or Advanced on the grade 10 MCAS exams.

In the coming months, the Department will continue to solicit input from the field and provide guidance, resources, and technical assistance to implement the Educational Proficiency Plan requirement. I appreciate all of your efforts to assist more of our students to reach the state proficiency goal.

Please direct questions about Educational Proficiency Plans to Peg Helgaard at 781-338-3524 / mhelgaard@doe.mass.edu or Nyal Fuentes at 781-338-3593 / nfuentes@doe.mass.edu.



Educational Proficiency Plans Questions and Answers

- › MCAS Home
- › About the MCAS
- › MCAS/MEPA Test Schedule
- › Test Administration
- › Participation Requirements
- › Test Items
- › Student Work/Scoring Guides
- › MCAS Results
- › MCAS Alternate Assessment
- › MEPA
- › NAEP
- › Other Resources:
 - Pathways to Success on MCAS
 - MCAS Performance Appeals
 - MCAS Service Center
 - Adams Scholarship
 - Parent Hotline 1-866-MCAS220



Assessment/Accountability › MCAS ›

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Off-Topic Compositions on MCAS English Language Arts Tests

To: Superintendents, Principals, Directors of Charter Schools, Approved Private Special Education Schools, Institutional Schools, and Educational Collaboratives, and English Department Heads

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner

Date: February 5, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to alert you to a concern regarding students' compositions written in response to the grade 10 MCAS English Language Arts (ELA) Composition writing prompts. As you know, the grade 10 Composition requires students to respond to a writing prompt based on a work of literature that they have read. Unfortunately, a large number of students (nearly 15%) who recently participated in the November 2007 retest did not respond to the prompt as required. As a result, their essays were deemed non-scorable (NS), earning them 0 out of 20 possible points for the Composition. As the ELA test is worth a total of 72 points, this significantly impacted many students' total scores.

Upon discovering this problem, the Department arranged to randomly select a sample of these compositions and analyze the student response patterns. All of the compositions studied were confirmed to be off-topic (non-responsive to the writing prompt), and the overwhelming majority involved a simple retelling of the plot of a book without addressing the topic of the prompt.

I strongly encourage you to share this finding with your English Language Arts administrators and faculty, so that they can remind students of the importance of producing an ELA Composition that directly addresses the writing prompt. In order to support these efforts, I want to remind you to visit our Web site at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/ for access to all ELA writing prompts administered since 2003, along with the MCAS Composition scoring guide and sample student responses (representing the range of score points that can be assigned). Test items and student work for all content areas can also be viewed at this site. Additionally, the NCS Mentor for MCAS, a professional development tool that allows educators to practice "scoring" MCAS Compositions and Open-Response items in ELA and math, is accessible through our Web site at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2004/news/1119mentor.

[html](#). Finally, I have attached to this memorandum a copy of the [November 2007 retest writing prompt and an example of an "off-topic" composition](#).

Images of student compositions from the November 2007 retest will be available to principals at www.mcasservicecenter.com beginning February 15. Please ask your faculty to examine their students' compositions along with the scoring criteria, and remind your students of the importance of addressing the writing prompt in their compositions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Jennifer O'Toole, Administrator for English Language Arts Assessment, at 781-338-3263.

[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#) | [Print Pdf](#)

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

[Search](#) · [Site Index](#) · [Policies](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact ESE](#)



- › MCAS Home
- › About the MCAS
- › MCAS/MEPA Test Schedule
- › Test Administration
- › Participation Requirements
- › Test Items
- › Student Work/Scoring Guides
- › MCAS Results
- › MCAS Alternate Assessment
- › MEPA
- › NAEP
- › Other Resources:

Pathways to Success on MCAS
MCAS Performance Appeals
MCAS Service Center
Adams Scholarship
Parent Hotline 1-866-MCAS220



Assessment/Accountability › MCAS ›

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Competency Determination Data Review

To: Superintendents, Principals, and Directors of Charter Schools

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education

Date: February 5, 2008

Later this month, the Department will publish *Progress Report on Students Attaining the Competency Determination Statewide and by School and District: Classes of 2008 and 2009*. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the number and percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 who have passed the MCAS English Language Arts and Mathematics tests through the November 2007 retest. As you know, students must pass these tests in order to meet the state's graduation requirement. The Progress Report will be released publicly during the week of February 25.

Review of Your District's Data is Requested

In preparation for the release of this report, we would like to give you a final opportunity to review the Competency Determination attainment status for students in grades 11 and 12 who were enrolled in your district/school as of October 2007.

A file listing students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 as reported by your district in the October 2007 SIMS has been posted to the [Department's Security Portal](#) under Drop Box Central-MCAS File Exchange. The file name for your district will be listed as "CD_" followed by your district code. Detailed instructions for submitting corrections are posted on the "Instructions" sheet of the data file.

Only individuals with the MCAS Drop Box security role have access to these data. Please contact your district-level Directory Administrator with questions about accessing the data. A list of Directory Administrators can be found at: www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/list.asp.

Please take a moment to review this file and submit any necessary corrections regarding your students' Competency Determination attainment status by 5:00 pm, **Friday, February 15.**

If you have questions about the Competency Determination status data files, please contact the Student Assessment Office at mcas@doe.mass.edu or call 781-338-3625.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#) | [Print Pdf](#)

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

[Search](#) · [Site Index](#) · [Policies](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact ESE](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Education presents
MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt)
PORTFOLIOS-IN-PROGRESS

Portfolio Review Sessions for the 2008 MCAS-Alt

Dates & Locations

Continental Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Workshop Sessions 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monday
March 10, 2008

Peabody
 Marriott

Tuesday
March 11, 2008

Holyoke
 Holiday Inn

Wednesday
March 12, 2008

Marlborough
 Marriott

Thursday
March 13, 2008

Taunton
 Holiday Inn

Workshop Sessions

Workshop 1:
Portfolio Discussion Groups

(Please bring your students' portfolios and questions to this session.)

- Review and discuss your students' portfolios-in-progress in an informal setting
- Share strategies for collecting high-quality evidence and data
- Have your questions answered by expert teachers

Workshop 2:
MCAS-Alt Electronic Version (EV)
Follow-up Training

You must already be trained in using MCAS-Alt EV and bring a laptop computer to this session

- Review the process for submitting EV portfolios
- Have your questions answered by the software developer and by an experienced teacher

Intended Audience

Educators who are conducting the MCAS Alternate Assessment, including special educators, general educators, and related service providers from school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives, approved private special education schools, and institutional settings.

Inclement Weather Information

Portfolios-in-Progress sessions will take place unless school is cancelled due to severe weather in the district in which the training is being held.

How to Register

Please register early, since attendance at each session is limited. **Registration is online** at www.mcasservicecenter.com
 All participants must register no later than Monday, March 3, 2008.

Registration Assistance

Contact the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103.

If you require an **ASL interpreter**, contact the MCAS Service Center no later than Monday, February 25, 2008.

This flyer also available online at: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html

2008 MCAS Alternate Assessment
March 10 -13, 2008

PORTFOLIOS-IN-PROGRESS

DIRECTIONS

Monday, March 10, 2008 ~ Peabody Marriott

8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960

Tel: 978-977-9700

From Route 1 North or South: Take Route 1 to I-95 North.

From Route I-95 North: Take I-95 toward Gloucester.

At fork for I-95 and Route 128, take Route 128 North toward Gloucester.

From Route 128 North or South: Take Exit 28 (Forest Street/Centennial Drive) onto Centennial Drive. Stay in the right lane. Turn right at the stoplight. Hotel entrance is the first driveway on the right.

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 ~ Holyoke Holiday Inn

251 Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke, MA 01040

Tel: 413-534-3311

From I-90 (Mass Pike): Take Exit 4 onto I-91 North.

Follow directions from I-91 below.

From I-91 North or South: Take Exit 15 (Holyoke/Ingleside). Bear right at the end of the ramp. Hotel will be on the left.

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 ~ Marlborough Marriott

75 Felton Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

Tel: 508-480-0015

From I-290 East (from Worcester): Take I-290 East to I-495 South.
(Follow directions below.)

From I-90 (Mass Pike): Take I-90 to Exit 11 onto I-495 North.
(Follow directions below.)

From I-495 North or South: Take Exit 24 B (Route 20 West). Take first right onto Felton Street (just past I-495 off-ramp, before the gas station). Hotel will be on the right.

Thursday, March 13, 2008 ~ Taunton Holiday Inn

700 Myles Standish Boulevard, Taunton, MA 01752

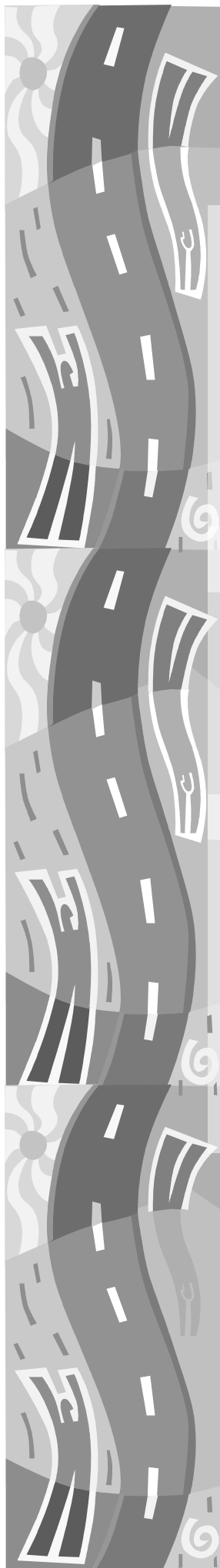
Tel: 508-823-0430

From Route 24 North or South: Take Exit 14 B to I-495 North.
(Follow directions below.)

From Route 95 North or South: Take Exit 6 A to I-495 South.
(Follow directions below.)

From I-495 North: Take Exit 9 (Bay Street). Take left off ramp, go back over the highway. At lights, turn right into Myles Standish Industrial Park. Hotel will be ahead on the right.

From I-495 South: Take Exit 9 (Bay Street). Bear right off exit ramp. Take first right into Myles Standish Industrial Park. Hotel will be ahead on the right.





- › Educator Recognition Home
- › History Teacher of the Year
- › Christa McAuliffe Fellowship
- › Fulbright Memorial Fund
- › George Washington Scholars
- › Master Teacher Program
- › Milken Family Foundation
- › Nat'l Teachers Hall of Fame
- › Presidential Awards
- › Teacher of the Year

Educator Services › Career Advancement ›

Educator Recognition Programs

Preserve America History Teacher of the Year

To: Superintendents, Principals, and History Department Chairs

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education

Date: February 2008

I am pleased to announce that nominations are open for the fifth annual national *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year program to honor outstanding teachers of American history across the country. The Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year will automatically be the state's candidate for the National *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year award.

The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and *Preserve America*. The Gilder Lehrman Institute, founded in 1994, promotes the study and love of American history. Increasingly national and international in scope, the Institute's programs and initiatives serve audiences ranging from students to scholars to the general public. *Preserve America* is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve America's cultural and natural heritage.



History teachers of grades 7-12 are eligible for nomination and will be selected based on the following criteria:

- At least three years of experience in teaching American history in grades 7-12;
- A deep career commitment to teaching American history, including local and state history;
- Evidence of creativity in the classroom that addresses historical literacy and state standards;
- Close attention to documents, artifacts, historic sites, and the other primary materials of history;
- Sensitive and accurate portrayals of America's history to students; and
- Evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement.

American history teachers of grades K-6 will be eligible for the 2009 History Teacher of the Year program.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History will honor each statewide winner with an award of \$1,000 and a "History Teacher of the Year" plaque. The Institute will also present the winner's school with an archive of primary historical materials for use in the school library or resource center.

The National History Teacher of the Year will be selected from the state winners by a panel of prominent historians. The winner, together with the nominating supervisor, will be flown to Washington, D.C. or New York City for the national recognition ceremony.

I encourage you to read and disseminate the enclosed **nomination procedure**   and to nominate outstanding American history teachers in your district/school. **Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, April 4, 2008.** For further information, visit our website at www.doe.mass.edu/educators/recognition/ or contact Deborah Walker at djwalker@doe.mass.edu or phone 781-338-3347.

last updated: February 7, 2008

[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#) | [Print Pdf](#)

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

[Search](#) · [Site Index](#) · [Policies](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact ESE](#)

- › Educator Recognition Home
- › History Teacher of the Year
- › Christa McAuliffe Fellowship
- › Fulbright Memorial Fund
- › George Washington Scholars
- › Master Teacher Program
- › Milken Family Foundation
- › Nat'l Teachers Hall of Fame
- › Presidential Awards
- › Teacher of the Year

[Educator Services](#) › [Career Advancement](#) › [Recognition Programs](#) ›

Educator Recognition Programs

Announcement of the George Washington Teachers' Institute



To: Superintendents, Principals, Teachers and Interested Parties

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education

Date: February 2008

I am pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for up to ten Massachusetts teachers of grades three through twelve in public and non-public schools. Applications are now being accepted for the tenth annual George Washington Teachers' Institute. The Institute will provide a one-week study program at George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, in northern Virginia.

The Institute's program will provide an intensive immersion study of George Washington and his world. The curriculum includes discussions led by noted Washington scholars and workshops exploring Washington's life and interests at Mount Vernon. Participating teachers will have full access to Mount Vernon's extensive library collection. They will meet with Mount Vernon's historians, curators, and educators, and will join an off-site field trip to explore 18th century colonial life and politics. Through study, discussion, tours, and projects, participants will gain a new and deeper understanding of the life and character of George Washington and his unique legacy in creating and shaping the principles of America's democracy.

The [requirements](#) and [application](#)   for the Institute are attached. These materials can also be found on our website www.doe.mass.edu/educators/recognition/. Please make multiple copies of the application and related materials, distribute them throughout your school or district, and use any other methods that will help to make the Institute material accessible to teachers. Completed applications need to be postmarked by Monday, March 17, 2008. Please encourage teachers of all subject areas to apply for this unique opportunity.

The George Washington Teachers' Institute is made possible by the generous support of a Massachusetts foundation in cooperation with George Washington's Mount Vernon and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact Deborah Walker at djwalker@doe.mass.edu or call 781-338-3347.

last updated: February 7, 2008

[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#) | [Print Pdf](#)

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

[Search](#) · [Site Index](#) · [Policies](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact ESE](#)



- › Educator Recognition Home
- › History Teacher of the Year
- › Christa McAuliffe Fellowship
- › Fulbright Memorial Fund
- › George Washington Scholars
- › Master Teacher Program
- › Milken Family Foundation
- › Nat'l Teachers Hall of Fame
- › Presidential Awards
- › Teacher of the Year

Educator Services › Career Advancement › Recognition Programs ›

Educator Recognition Programs

2008 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching

To: Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Other Interested Parties

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education



Date: February 2008

I am pleased to announce that nominations are open for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The PAEMST Program was established in 1983 by the White House and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers, kindergarten through 12th grade, in each state and the four U.S. jurisdictions. These teachers will serve as models for their colleagues and will be leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education.

The competition alternates year by year between teachers of grades K-6 and teachers of grades 7-12. Teachers of grades K-6 mathematics and science are eligible for nomination for the 2008 Presidential Awards. Teachers of grades 7-12 will be eligible for the 2009 Presidential Awards.

In order to apply for the 2008 PAEMST, a teacher must be nominated. Anyone (e.g., principals, teachers, students, and other members of the general public) may nominate a teacher. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

Each Presidential Awardee will receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation and gifts from donors. Each Awardee will also be invited to attend, along with a guest, recognition events in Washington, D.C., in March 2009.

I have enclosed a **nomination form**   for you to copy and distribute. **The deadline for nominations is Thursday, March 13, 2008.** Nominations can also be made by going to www.paemst.org. For further information, contact Deborah Walker at djwalker@doe.mass.edu or call (781) 338-3347. Nominations should be submitted to Deborah Walker at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

ESE Phone: 781-338-3000

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

NEWS/EVENTS SEARCH

Keyword:

Dates:

Past 30 days

Past 90 days

Date Range

Start:

End:



Family & Community

Seeking Individuals for Membership on the Family Literacy Research and Evaluation Advisory Group

To: Superintendents, Principals, and Other Interested Parties

From: Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education

Date: February 5, 2008

As part of a strategic effort to prevent the achievement gap for young children and close the achievement gap for older children and their parents who are under-educated and or limited English proficient, the Adult and Community Learning Services (ACLS) unit of the Department of Education is conducting a research and evaluation study. The purpose of the study is to investigate the efficacy of "Family Literacy" as a means of helping families achieve success in school, in the workforce, and in their communities.

I invite you to participate in the **Family Literacy Research and Evaluation Advisory Group** to help guide an the evaluation being conducted by Early Childhood Associates (ECA) under contract with ACLS. The key question the study will answer is: *Does the provision of integrated family literacy services result in better outcomes for children, their parents and for families overall compared with adults and children enrolled in educational programs that are not integrated?* Four Even Start Family Literacy Programs in our state will be the primary focus of the evaluation.

The Even Start Family Literacy Program is a federally funded program intended to help families overcome intergenerational cycles of under-education and poverty by providing integrated services: age-appropriate education to prepare young children for success in school; parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency; interactive literacy activities between parents and their children; and training for parents to support them in their roles as the primary teacher for their children and a full partner in their education.

The Family Literacy Research and Evaluation Advisory Group will advise the evaluation team. Up to twelve individuals representing a broad range of stakeholders including practitioners and policymakers representing preschool through post-secondary education, workforce, philanthropy, and family serving agencies will be selected.

It is expected that the advisory group will meet three times in 2008 with an estimated total time commitment of approximately 12 hours inclusive of previewing materials. Members will serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily and reasonable incurred in the performance of their role. The first meeting will be held in early March.

Interested parties should email Arlene Dale, Family Literacy Specialist at the Department of Education (adale@doe.mass.edu), **no later than February 20, 2008**.

[E-mail this page](#) | [Print View](#) | [Print Pdf](#)

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

[Search](#) · [Site Index](#) · [Policies](#) · [Site Info](#) · [Contact ESE](#)