



Mitchell D. Chester
 Commissioner of
 Elementary and Secondary
 Education

- › Update Archive
- › Commissioner's Welcome
- › Superintendents' Checklist

RSS

Commissioner's Update

September 19, 2008

Dear Superintendents and Leaders of Charter Schools and Collaboratives:

In this Update I have three announcements and nine items for your review.

New FY2009 Transition to Full-Day Kindergarten RFP Released

The purpose of the state-funded competitive grant is to encourage the voluntary expansion of high-quality, full-day kindergarten across Massachusetts. This grant is intended for districts ready to implement full-day kindergarten (FDK) in September of 2009.

The larger purpose of the state-funded Kindergarten Development Grant program is to enhance the educational experience of children by: increasing the number of full-day kindergarten classrooms; improving overall quality and curriculum; increasing inclusion; promoting continuity of curriculum from preschool (pre-K) to third grade; and developing other program components. The program will help to achieve the goal of preventing the achievement gap from starting.

Letters of Intent to Apply are due Tuesday, September 23, 2008 and all proposals must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2008. For more details, review <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants09/rfp/702.html> or contact the Office of Elementary School Support via email at ecaille@doe.mass.edu or 781-338-6355.

In this Update I have four announcements and one item for your review.

Technology Plan Data Collection

From September 12 to October 10, 2008, the online forms for the annual Tech Plan Update Report will be open for districts to enter their data for the 2007-2008 school year. This report will give us data on how you have implemented your long-range technology plan over the past year. Districts need to report on their progress in implementing their technology plan in order to be eligible for technology grants and E-Rate discounts.

To access the forms, log in to the Department's security portal and click "Tech Plan." The first page contains instructions for completing the forms. When you are ready to begin entering data, use the drop-down menus to select your district and the year "2007-2008."

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will review the data, as well as each district's long-range technology plan. We will send out letters of approval by April, 2009 so that districts will be eligible for FY2010 technology grants and E-Rate discounts.

Please be sure to enter your data by the October 10 deadline so that you will receive your letter of approval in April. If you need help with updating and submitting your report online, contact Baiba Ozols at bozols@doe.mass.edu. If you need help accessing your online forms, contact the Data Collection Office at 781-338-3282.

Free ALEKS Mathematics Subscription to Help Study Participants Prepare for the Mathematics MTEL

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is continuing a pilot study to examine the potential benefits to teachers and teacher candidates of using a web-based tutorial program to prepare for the Elementary (#53) or Middle School (#47) Mathematics MTEL. The following test dates are included in this pilot: November 22, 2008 or March 7, May 9 or July 11, 2009. Study participants will receive a free subscription for up to three months to Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (<http://www.aleks.com>) software, a web-based assessment and learning system.

After an initial adaptive diagnostic assessment, ALEKS will provide each participant with a summary report that can guide the participant's use of the learning mode tutorial where the program provides detailed explanations, opportunities for practice, and tracks the mastery of concepts and skills. **Please note that although the ALEKS system addresses some of the same content as the MTEL mathematics tests, it is not specifically designed for or aligned with the MTEL mathematics test objectives or test items.**

Participants in the study will be asked to use ALEKS for a minimum of 10 hours, complete three surveys to document their experience, and register for and take the #53 or #47 Mathematics MTEL. Although participants' MTEL and ALEKS results will be used as part of the study, data will be kept in strict confidentiality. No information that could be used to identify participants or their schools will be published in the study. For more information or to sign up for the study, please contact Emily Hamilton at ehamilton@doe.mass.edu or (781) 338-3541.

Items Posted at www.doe.mass.edu:

1. [Department Collection of Contracts and Collective Bargaining Agreements](#)
2. [MCAS-Alt Training Opportunities](#)
3. [License Renewal Reminder](#)
4. [Fall Statistical Reports](#)
5. [Individual Non-Public School Report](#)
6. [Nominees Sought for New Advisory Council on School and District Accountability and Assistance](#)
7. [Bank of America Charitable Foundation and Massachusetts Cultural Council Roll Out Big Yellow School Bus](#)
8. [MEFA College Savings Art Competition](#)
9. [Massachusetts Partners with U.S. Department of Energy to Educate Engineers of Tomorrow](#) "Real World

Challenge"

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

last updated: September 19, 2008

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

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Elementary & Secondary Education*

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



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:

Department Collection of Contracts and Collective Bargaining Agreements

To: Superintendents and Charter School Leaders

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: September 19, 2008

Legislation signed last month by the Governor assigns responsibility for district and school accountability to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The structure outlined in the new law replaces the former Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) and its board, the Educational Management Audit Council.

One requirement of the new law is that each school district, including regional school districts and charter schools, will **annually file a copy of its current personnel contracts and collective bargaining agreements with the Department by October 1st**. In her role overseeing the Offices of Accountability and Assistance, Deputy Commissioner Karla Brooks Baehr will be responsible for developing ways to organize and disseminate information gleaned from these documents so that this provision in the law becomes a requirement that is useful to the field.

We ask that you send a copy of the following to the Department by October 1st:

- The most recent personnel contract for the superintendent
- The personnel contract for the most recently hired principal
- The most recent collective bargaining agreements for:
 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Instructional assistants

o Other educational support personnel

We are asking Superintendents to send any formal "side agreements" that may not appear in the collective bargaining contract but that have been negotiated to implement expanded learning time, pilot schools or other similar initiatives.

This year, you may send hard copy or transmit these documents electronically, though we would prefer electronic submission.

By mail, please send the documents to:

Diane Beck

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

350 Main Street

Malden, MA 02148-5023

By email, send the documents to: contractagreements@doe.mass.edu

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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

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[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 › Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System ›

MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt)

MCAS-Alt Training Opportunities

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

Copy: Special Education Directors

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: September 10, 2008

I am writing to inform you of upcoming training opportunities for the 2008-2009 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt).

- Administrators are invited to attend an **Administrators' Overview** session www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html being held across the state from September 25 through October 3, 2008. These sessions will address the MCAS-Alt as well as general topics related to MCAS for students with disabilities, including participation guidelines, policies on test accommodations, and test results. The registration deadline is September 22, 2008.
- Educators who are conducting the 2009 MCAS-Alt are invited to attend one of the **Educators' Training** sessions www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html being held across the state in mid-October. Sessions will be provided for educators who are conducting the MCAS-Alt for the first time and for those with previous MCAS-Alt experience. Important new materials on current assessment requirements will be distributed at these sessions. The registration deadline is September 29, 2008.

I encourage you and members of your staff who are conducting the MCAS-Alt to attend the appropriate training session.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

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

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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:

Professional License Renewal Reminder (Computer Lab Sessions in Malden)

To: Superintendents of Schools, Charter School Leaders, Directors of Approved Day or Residential Schools, Educational Collaboratives and Other Interested Parties

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



Date: September 19, 2008

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is encouraging 50,000 educators with a professional license due for renewal on June 17, 2009 to renew online.

The Education Reform Act of 1993 stipulates that all educators who hold a professional level license must renew the license every five years. The first two major rounds of renewals were accomplished by June 17, 1999, and by June 17, 2004, leaving these educators until June 17, 2009 to renew their professional license.

License renewals granted prior to the deadline will take effect the day the old ones expire, and will remain in effect through June 17, 2014. Professional license renewals will cost \$100 for each designated primary area license, and \$25 for each additional area.

In 2004, 93 percent of the 64,000 educators who renewed did so online through [ELAR](#), the online Educator Licensure and Recruitment system. This system is streamlined and easy to follow, allowing those with all of their paperwork in order and who complete their application online to get their new license mailed out by the end of the next business day.



To get a license renewed, teachers must have completed their professional development plan, and earned the requisite number of Professional Development Points (PDPs). PDPs should be organized into three categories: content, pedagogy, and other. Educators will need to indicate PDPs earned in each category so they can confirm that they have met the minimum requirements to renew their licenses when they go online to apply. The Department provides a   downloadable form that many educators will find helpful in organizing their PDPs.

The Department will accept an "electronic signature" on an affidavit included with the online application that constitutes the educator's assurance that he/she has the required documentation. For most educators, the online

process will take just 10 minutes. Some of the online and paper applications will be selected for an audit to confirm that they meet all the requirements. Prior audits have confirmed that over 97 percent of educators can provide the documentation that they have met all requirements.

Representatives from the Office of Educator Licensure will conduct licensure renewal computer lab sessions this fall. These licensure renewal lab sessions will be held in the Department's Computer Lab at 350 Main Street in Malden. The renewal labs will be open on the following dates from 2:30-5:00 p.m.: www.doe.mass.edu/Conference (Click on License Renewal)

Note: The Department is in process of coordinating lab sessions in Central and Western Massachusetts, information regarding these sessions will be announced in the coming weeks.

Educators that do not wish to renew online can submit a paper application here:  , however, applicants could experience a delay if they submit their applications on paper.

If you have any questions, please contact Amena Swinton at aswinton@doe.mass.edu (781) 338-3238.

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

- › Information Services Home
- › Data Collection
- › Education Data Warehouse
- › Statistical Reports
- › School/District Profiles
- › MassONE
- › Security Portal
- › Software Vendors
- › Contact Us

District/School Administration › Information Services ›

Statistical Reports

Fall Statistical Reports

To: Superintendents and Charter School Leaders

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: September 19, 2008

This memo is to remind you about upcoming data collections we will be conducting this fall. They are outlined below:

Report	Level	Format	Due Date
1. SIMS Data Elements	Student	Data file via web	Oct. 30, 2008
2. EPIMS Data Elements	Educator	Data file via web	Jan. 22, 2009
3. School Safety and Discipline Report	Incident/Student	Electronic web form	July 31, 2009
4. Individual Non-Public School Report*	Non-Public School	Electronic web form or Paper	Nov. 7, 2008

*Not applicable for charter schools and regional vocational schools.

Student Information Management System (SIMS)


This fall we will continue to collect the SIMS 52 data elements. This year there have been no changes to the list of data elements collected through this system. Several data element descriptions have been modified to provide clarification. Please refer to the SIMS website for additional information:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/sims/>.

Education Personnel Information Management System (EPIMS)

This fall we will launch the second statewide collection of the EPIMS data elements. The listing of data elements and definitions has remained the same as last year. I would like to thank you in advance for your district's efforts to once again complete this significant collection effort. Please refer to the EPIMS website for additional information: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/epims/>.

School Safety and Discipline Report (SSDR)

The SSDR application will be available in early November and continue to be available throughout the year so that district staff can enter the information as the incidents occur. If your district has this information available in an electronic format, a second option for reporting is available. Instructions to send a School Safety and Discipline File can be found here: .

Individual Non-Public School Report

This year a web-based form will be available to the non-public schools to complete this report. Paper copies will continue to be available for download from our website. Principals will receive a memo (link to non-public school memo) with detailed instructions regarding accessing the new application that is located in the Department's security portal. The web-based form and paper reports are due in to the Department by **November 7, 2008**.

The complete data collection schedule including documentation for the 2008-2009 school year can be found at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/schedule.html>

Directory Administration Functions Listing

The Directory Administration application database is the Department's primary source of contact information for districts and schools in the state. In order for Department staff to be able to communicate effectively with school district staff it is important that this information be up to date. Please review your district information in the District and School Profiles and update the information as needed in Directory Administration. Any district staff member who is a Directory Administrator can make the changes. In addition, if you have changes to grade levels or need to close or open a school, please notify us using the notification forms located on our website (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/>).

We appreciate your help in submitting this important data. If you have any questions about the fall reports, please call 781-338-DATA (3282).

Thank you for your cooperation.

C: Public School Principals



- › Information Services Home
- › Data Collection
- › Education Data Warehouse
- › Statistical Reports
- › School/District Profiles
- › MassONE
- › Security Portal
- › Software Vendors
- › Contact Us

District/School Administration › Information Services ›

Statistical Reports

Individual Non-Public School Report

To: Principals of Non-Public Schools

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: September 19, 2008

I am pleased to announce that the Fall 2008 Individual Non-Public School Report will be available for you to complete using a web-based form. The paper version will continue to be available for download from our website and can be mailed in to the Department. Each year the information you provide is used for a range of important purposes both at the state and national levels, including federal grant allocations.

To access the report online, please send an email to PrivateSchools@doe.mass.edu

with the following information. This email account will be in place through the end of the calendar year to assist in the data collection process.

- School code
- School name
- City/Town of school's location
- Contact information for individual completing the report (First Name, Last Name, email address and phone number)

You will receive a reply email containing detailed instructions for completing the online form.

To complete the paper report, you may download the form at the following link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/schedule.html>. Return the completed form to:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Data Collection/3rd Floor

350 Main Street

Malden, MA 02148-5023

The online form or the paper report are due in the Department by November 7, 2008. If you need any assistance, please call the Data Collection office at 781-338-DATA (3282).

Thank you for your cooperation.

c: Public School Superintendents

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

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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:

For Immediate Release**Tuesday, September 02, 2008****Contact: Heidi Guarino 781-338-3106**

Nominees Sought for New Advisory Council on School and District Accountability and Assistance

MALDEN - - Last month Governor Patrick signed Chapter 311 of the Acts of 2008, An Act Relative to School District Accountability, reassigning the accountability duties previously carried out by the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE).

To help guide this new phase of accountability and assistance work at the ESE, the law calls for the creation of a 15-member advisory council on School and District Accountability and Assistance to advise the Department and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on the policies and practices of both the Department's new Office of School and District Accountability and its already-existing Office of Targeted Assistance. Under the law, Commissioner Chester has responsibility for recommending the Advisory Council members for appointment by the Board.

Council members will serve three-year terms without compensation. Serving on this advisory council will require a substantial time commitment. Its responsibilities are significant and include *"review and comment on all regulations relative to the accountability and assistance program areas before board approval...and developing and administering, through the department, a post-audit survey to audited school districts and an annual survey to any schools and districts receiving targeted assistance."*

Six members of the advisory council will be selected from among three nominees recommended by each of the following stakeholder groups identified in the law:

- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- Massachusetts Teachers Association and American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts (jointly)
- Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association
- Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees

- Massachusetts Charter Public School Association

A seventh member will be a representative of a business or industry with "a demonstrated commitment to education."

The eight remaining members will be at-large members, each of whom has a *"demonstrated record of achievement or academic expertise in: education administration; education or business finance and management; the use of student achievement data to improve instruction and administration; the conduct or use of school and district audits and evaluations; educator evaluation and professional development; or other areas of expertise in education reforms..."*

The council will meet at least four times this year. **The first advisory council meeting will take place on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 1 p.m. at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross, following a 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. meeting and luncheon for all 17 of the Board's advisory councils.**

The Department is seeking a wide range of nominees to serve on the council. **Nominations will be accepted through Monday, September 29, 2008**, and recommendations will be made to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for action at its October 21st meeting. Interested parties should submit 2 copies of a letter of interest along with a resume to Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5023, (attn: Advisory Councils).

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Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education

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

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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:



Bank of America Charitable Foundation and Massachusetts Cultural Council Roll Out

BIG YELLOW SCHOOL BUS

New grant program provides essential funds for cultural field trips

Sept. 15, 2008—The Bank of America Charitable Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) today announced the launch of **Big Yellow School Bus**, a new grant program to help schools meet the costs of providing educational field trips to cultural institutions and events across the Commonwealth for their students.

Big Yellow School Bus meets a growing need to help schools fund organized field trips to art and science museums, historic sites, and music and theatre performances, which are often eliminated due to the pressures of dwindling budgets. According to a recent MCC survey of Massachusetts public school principals, nine out of 10 respondents said they planned to cut back on field trips in the coming year, and nearly all cited rising fuel costs as one of the reasons.

Exposure to creative learning at cultural institutions is a vital component to a child's academic development. These visits help foster creativity and innovation, which Governor Deval Patrick's 21st Century Skills Task Force identifies as among the most important skills for students to develop today. The *Big Yellow School Bus* Program is designed to foster partnerships between schools and cultural institutions so students across the state can explore their creativity and experience all that Massachusetts cultural life has to offer.

Funded by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and MCC, *Big Yellow School Bus* any K-12 school in Massachusetts to apply for a \$200 grant to be utilized during the 2008-2009 school year. Grants provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will support schools with a high percentage of low-to-moderate income students, as well as schools focused on students with special needs.

"Cultural institutions are critical to the economy, quality of life and ongoing educational development of the Commonwealth," said Robert E. Gallery, Massachusetts President, Bank of America. "Rising costs have left too many schools without access. *Big Yellow School Bus* is one way to help restore those opportunities, so today's students have the chance to learn, explore and expand their imaginations outside the classroom."

"Field trips provide thousands of Massachusetts children their first or perhaps only opportunity to experience a live concert or play, or see a master work of art," said Anita Walker, Executive Director of the MCC, who spearheaded the first *Big Yellow School Bus* program in Iowa. "Thanks to the generosity of Bank of America and support from our Governor and Legislature, our children won't have to miss out on these experiences."

Big Yellow School Bus applications and more information can be found online at www.massculturalcouncil.org

Bank of America and the Arts

Bank of America is a leading supporter of arts and culture in the United States. Through a wide variety of programs, Bank of America works to strengthen artistic institutions and provide greater access to treasured works of art for both its customers and those who might not otherwise experience them. Each year the company provides millions of dollars in grants to a wide range of arts organizations, supporting education and access programs and enabling institutions to expand their scope, and underwrites national and local performances, arts programs, and exhibitions. Through its unique loaned exhibition program, the bank offers its art collection to museums throughout the country, free of charge, so they may expand their offerings for the benefit of their communities.

The **Massachusetts Cultural Council** is a state agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in arts and culture, to improve the quality of life for Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. Last year MCC launched *Creative Minds*, a broad-based effort to expand learning opportunities for young people in the arts, humanities, and sciences through grants, support for educators, and public policy initiatives. The *Big Yellow School Bus* Program is part of that effort. For more on *Creative Minds*, go to <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/creativeminds.asp>

Friday, September 19, 2008

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

*Massachusetts Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education*

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

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- o [Apply for an Undergraduate Loan](#)
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[Financial Aid](#)
[Get a Loan](#)
[Calculators + Tools](#)
[U.Fund College Investing Plan](#)
[U.Fund Prepaid Tuition Program](#)
[College Savings Art Competition](#)

College Savings Art Competition

In the spirit of promoting arts education, MEFA — with support from the Massachusetts Department of Education — is sponsoring the Fifth Annual College Savings Art Competition. Massachusetts students in grades 3, 4, and 5 at all public, private, charter, and home-based schools are invited to submit a piece of artwork illustrating "What do I want to be when I graduate from college?"

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2008 Art Competition

MEFA's Fifth Annual College Savings Art Competition is now open for submissions. Parents or teachers of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students entering the competition should download two documents:

- A [letter to the parent/guardian](#) describing the Fifth Annual College Savings Art Competition
- [The Art Competition Entry Form](#) to be signed by the student's parent/guardian and attached to the student's artwork ([en español](#))

Please send the completed entry form and student's artwork to:

MEFA
c/o 2008 College Savings Art Competition
160 Federal Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Entries must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on November 21, 2008.

Winners will be announced in March and awarded a monetary prize made payable to a [U.Fund College Investing Plan](#) account.

\$5,000 for first place
\$2,000 for second place
\$1,000 for third place



What Do I Want to Be When I Graduate from College?

Win up to **\$5,000**
toward your college education!

Hey students: if you're in grade 3, 4, or 5, enter **MEFA's 2008 College Savings Art Competition**. You could win \$5,000 for college and valuable prizes for your school. Talk to your teacher or go to www.mefa.org/contest to enter!







DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 21, 2008







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2007 Art Competition Winners

In the past four years, MEFA's College Savings Art Competition has received more than 10,000 entries and awarded more than \$96,000 in U.Fund College Investing Plan accounts.

MEFA would like to congratulate the winners of the Fourth Annual College Savings Art Competition.

Grade 3		
1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
<p> Emily M. Lowell, MA Lowell Community Charter School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>	<p> Randy Z. Waltham, MA Bartlett School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>	<p> Steven Z. Bolton, MA Florence Sawyer Elementary School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>

Grade 4		
1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
<p> Sam S. Hingham, MA W. L. Foster School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>	<p> Alexa M. Mendon-Upton, MA Miscoe Hill School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>	<p> Gabriela C. Framingham MA McCarthy School</p>  <p>Click to View</p>

Grade 5		
1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place

➔ **Jung K.**
Belmont, MA
Chenery
Middle School



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➔ **Michael C.**
Milton, MA
Thacher
Montessori



[Click to View](#)

➔ **Brandon R.**
Hancock, MA
Hancock
Middle School



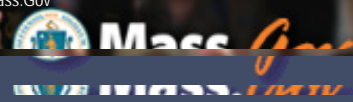
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GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Contact:

Kyle Sullivan
Becky Deusser
Kim Haberlin
617-725-4025

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Patrick-Murray Administration Announces “Real World Design Challenge” Partnership

Massachusetts Partners with U.S. Department of Energy to Educate Engineers of Tomorrow

BOSTON – Wednesday, September 17, 2008 – The Patrick-Murray Administration today announced an innovative partnership to enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in Massachusetts with the goal of training tomorrow’s engineers, especially in the aerospace industry.

The “Real World Design Challenge” is a partnership involving the Commonwealth, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Parametric Technology Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Corporation, Business Educational Partnerships Group, Mentor Graphics (formerly Flomerics, Inc.), Education Development Center, MIT Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Massachusetts NASA Space Grant, and others.

“The Real World Design Challenge will inspire our students and teachers and assist Commonwealth students in learning the skills needed to help our already successful aerospace industry grow,” said Lt. Governor Murray, who made the announcement today at the Real World Design Challenge event at the Statehouse

The pilot program will provide Massachusetts teachers and students free access to some of the world’s most advanced mechanical

engineering and design software as part of a national design competition. The Challenge strengthens professional development for teachers through training and industry collaboration. Mentors from National Laboratories, the FAA, industry and higher education provide support using a web-based global engineering backbone. In this case, aviation industry engineers have defined a challenge currently being addressed in their industry, and teachers and students use the Challenge tools to search for innovative solutions.

"This is a groundbreaking public-private partnership that will enhance a critical component of the 21st Century transportation community- the aviation industry," says Bernard Cohen, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation.

"As Governor Patrick, Lt. Governor Murray and I focus on education reform, this Challenge provides a timely partnership to strengthen professional development for our educators in the critical areas of science, mathematics, technology, and engineering," says Paul Reville, Massachusetts Secretary of Education.

"The aviation component of this Challenge is particularly appropriate as we encourage innovation among teachers and interest among students to address a looming severe shortage of engineers in the aerospace industry," says FAA Regional Administrator Amy Lind Corbett.

The aerospace industry faces a very significant shortage of engineers. Between 60,000 and 68,000 engineers in the U.S. aerospace industry will retire by 2010 and only half of those will be replaced. With modest growth in the U.S. aerospace industry, there will be a shortage of 40,000 to 85,000 engineers by 2010.

Dr. Ralph Coppola, director, worldwide education, PTC, said that the partnership will help address the growing industry demand for workers in technology, engineering, science and technology.

"The Real World Design Challenge bridges the needs of the industry with the future of education," said Dr. Coppola. "It teaches innovation, creativity and collaboration using the expertise that industry, government and higher education have been perfecting for decades. With this real world approach to learning, we can keep our workforce strong and ensure America's prosperity for the future."

Coppola said that the challenge is making a long term investment in educators. As part of the challenge, each participating teacher receives licenses of industry leading engineering software valued at nearly \$1 million to use with their students.

Additional information about the Real World Design Challenge can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's Real World Design Challenge web site <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html>, or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Education website <http://www.doe.mass.edu/>.

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