

Special Education

Massachusetts State Agencies

[Commonwealth of Massachusetts Home Page](#)

The official website for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a wealth of information from state agencies of interest to citizens, businesses, students, and visitors or those who are just curious about the Bay State.

[Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(ESE\)](#)

Our Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website is designed to provide all of our constituencies with information that is useful to them, and to create new forums for discussion of educational issues. For example, [teachers](#) can easily access online versions of the [curriculum frameworks](#), the guidelines for academic standards under [Education Reform](#). Soon we will be arranging for teachers to discuss the frameworks on our online forums. School leaders find our twice monthly [coordinated mailings](#), which provide important and timely information on grant opportunities and legal advice. Parents will find [school profiles](#), which give a summary of available data on programs at every one of the 1800 schools in the Commonwealth. And students can get access to a world of information by using our home page as a start!

[Department of Early Education and Care \(EEC\)](#)

It's a new agency! Effective July 1, 2005, the new Department of Early Education and Care (ECC) combines the functions of the Office of Child Care Services (OCCS) and those of the Early Learning Services Division at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This agency is supervised and guided by a new independent board, the Board of Early Education and Care, which appointed Ann Reale as Early Education and Care's first Commissioner.

[Executive Office of Health and Human Services](#)

The EOHHS site contains information on the programs and services provided by the sixteen agencies within EOHHS. Twelve of the sixteen agencies are listed below, as they apply to students and individuals with disabilities:

[The Department of Mental Health \(DMH\)](#)

DMH seeks to improve the quality of life for adults with serious and persistent mental illness and children with serious mental illness or severe emotional disturbance. Tel: (617) 727-5600, Fax: (617) 727-4350

[Department of Developmental Services \(DDS\)](#)

The Department is dedicated to creating, in partnership with others, innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities as valued members

[The Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#)

DPH is dedicated to the mission, to serve all the people in the Commonwealth, particularly the under served, and to promote healthy people, healthy families, healthy communities and healthy environments through compassionate care, education and prevention.

[Department of Children and Families \(DCF\)](#)

The primary mission of the Department of Children and Families is to protect children who have been abused or neglected in a family setting. The Department will seek to insure that each child has a safe, nurturing, permanent home.

[The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance \(DTA\)](#)

DTA formerly known as the Department of Public Welfare, is the state agency responsible for administering public assistance programs for needy citizens of the Commonwealth.

[Department of Youth Service \(DYS\)](#)

The Department of Youth Services is the juvenile justice agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The mission of DYS is to protect the public, prevent crime and promote positive opportunities for juvenile offenders.

[Division of Health Care Finance and Policy \(DHCFP\)](#)

The mission of DHCFP is to improve the delivery and financing of health care by providing information, developing policies, and promoting efficiencies that benefit the people of Massachusetts.

[Massachusetts Commission for the Blind \(MCB\)](#)

MCB provides services such as vocational rehabilitation, independent living and social services, orientation and mobility training, rehabilitation teaching, radio reading, and more.

[Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(MCDHH\)](#)

MCDHH is a commission, under the Executive Office of Human Services, which serves as the principal agency in the state on behalf of deaf, late deafened, and hard of hearing people.

[Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission \(MRC\)](#)

MRC is committed to increasing the independence of disabled citizens of the Commonwealth through services that result in competitive work and/or reduce reliance on benefit programs.

[MassHealth](#)

The mission of MassHealth is to help the financially needy obtain high-quality health care that is affordable, promotes independence, and provides customer satisfaction.

[Office for Refugees and Immigrants \(ORI\)](#)

The mission of ORI is to promote the full participation of refugees and immigrants as self-sufficient individuals and families in the economic, social, and civic life of Massachusetts.

[Board of Higher Education \(BHE\)](#)

Ensures that Massachusetts residents have the opportunity to benefit from a higher education that enriches their lives and advances their contributions to the civic life, economic development and social progress of the Commonwealth.

Architectural Access Board AAB

AAB is a regulatory agency within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. Its legislative mandate states that it shall develop and enforce regulations designed to make public buildings accessible to, functional for, and safe for use by persons with disabilities

*Massachusetts Department of
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