



*Report to the Legislature:
Academic Support Programs*

Line-item 7061-9404
February 2008

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February 2008

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this *Report to the Legislature: Academic Support Programs* pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, line-item 7061-9404 in accordance with the following:

“provided further, that the department shall issue a report, no later than February 1, 2008 and annually thereafter as a condition of continued funding under this account, in collaboration with the board of higher education, describing MCAS support programs for the graduating classes of 2003 to 2012, inclusive, funded by items 7061-9404 and 7027- 0019, school to work accounts, institutions of public higher education, and other sources, including federal sources; provided further, that such report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of students eligible to participate in such programs, the number of students participating in such programs, the number of students who have passed the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs, but not met local graduation requirements, and the number of students who have passed the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs and met local graduation requirements; provided further, that said report shall be provided to the chairs of the house and senate ways and means committees and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education;”

The programs serving students through line item 7061-9404 are funded through the following five school year/summer grant programs:

1. District/Approved Private Special Education Schools & Collaboratives;
2. One Stop Career Centers;
3. Work & Learning Programs;
4. Higher Education Institutions; and
5. Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success.

Line item 7027-0019 supports annual competitive contracts to Workforce Investment Boards for Connecting Activities.

Approximately 150,000 students from the Classes of 2003-2012 are eligible to receive Academic Support services, and in FY 08 the Department anticipates slightly more than 24,000 will participate. This report does not include information on the earmarked programs funded through line item 7061-9404.

The Department will provide additional information in a subsequent report that will be submitted as an addendum to this FY 08 report, including the number of students who participated in the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs, as well as how many of these students have and have not met local graduation requirements.

Similarly, an addendum to the January 2007 report regarding FY 07 programs will be submitted later this year, once complete post-test score information is compiled and analyzed for students who participated in the FY 07 summer programs and took the November 2007 retest.

If you have additional inquiries, please contact John Bynoe, Associate Commissioner of Student Support, Career and Education Services, or Rachelle M. Engler, Director of Student Support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Nellhaus
Acting Commissioner of Education

MCAS Academic Support Programs Fiscal Year 2008

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MCAS Academic Support Programs Fiscal Year 2008

Introduction

The Department is pleased to submit this *Report to the Legislature: Academic Support Programs*, pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, line-item 7061-9404. This report provides information regarding FY 08 MCAS support for the Classes of 2003-2012 funded through these line-items 7061-9404 and 7027-0019.

The programs serving students through these line items are funded through five grant programs and one contract.

Line item 7061-9404 funds five school year/summer grant programs:

1. District/Approved Private Special Education Schools & Collaboratives;
2. One Stop Career Centers;
3. Work & Learning Programs;
4. Higher Education Institutions; and
5. Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success.

Line item 7027-0019 supports one annual competitive contract initiative:

1. Connecting Activities (through Workforce Investment Boards).

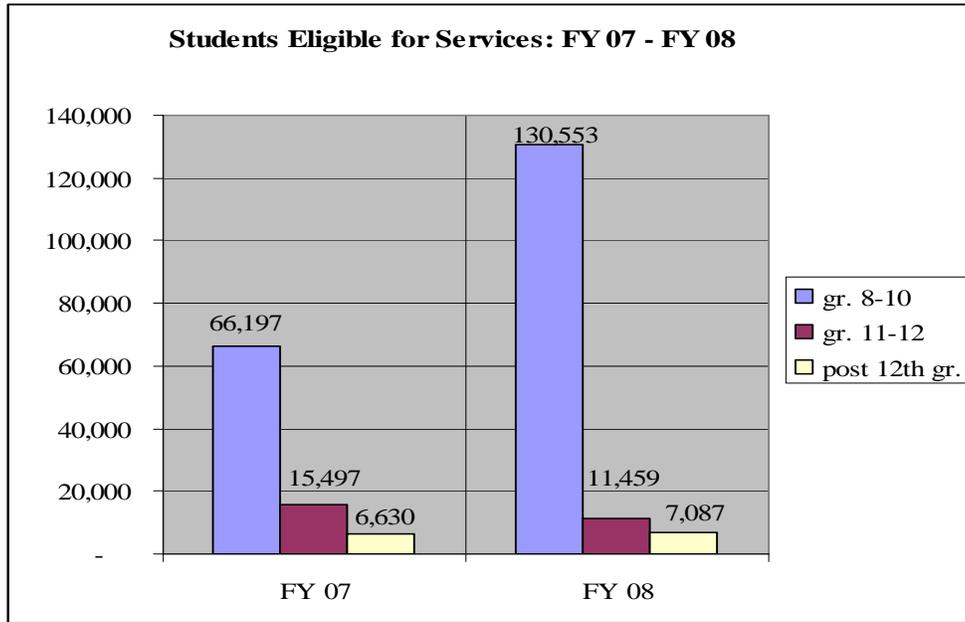
This report includes information on the number of students eligible to participate in these programs. While the Department of Education has begun collecting data on all FY 08 MCAS support programs, data regarding actual participation numbers has not yet been received. The current indication of the number of students to be served by MCAS support programs is the number of proposed students by grantees that have been approved (as of January 2, 2008) to operate FY 08 programs.

Eligible Students

In October 2006, the Board of Education voted to amend the regulation on the competency determination that is required for high school graduation. The Board changed the criteria by requiring that, beginning with the Class of 2010, students not simply earn 220 on both MCAS tests, but now either meet or exceed a scaled score of 240 on both grade 10 MCAS English language arts and Mathematics tests, or meet or exceed a scaled score of 220 on both tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan. For more details, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=3200>.

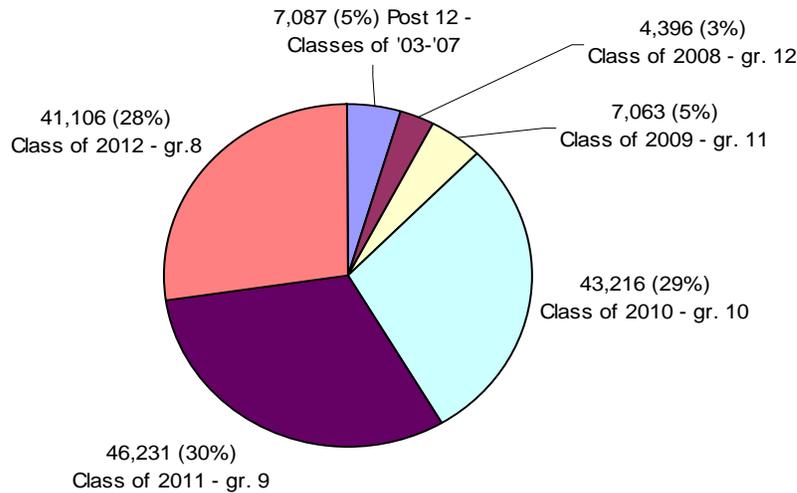
As a result of these changes, student eligibility for MCAS support programs expanded this year to also include grade 8-10 students who scored at level two (needs improvement) on their most recent MCAS. These students are in addition to the students in grades 8-12 and post 12th graders who have performed in the warning/failing (level 1) category. Accordingly, the number of eligible students has close to doubled from just over 88,000

in FY07 to nearly 150,000¹ in FY 08. The bar chart on the next page shows a comparison of student eligibility from FY 07 to FY 08 by grade levels.



As can be seen in the pie chart below that provides more details on FY 08 eligibility numbers, the vast majority of students eligible for services this year are in grades 8-10 (87%), while only 8% of eligible students are in grades 11 and 12 and only 5% are post 12th grade.

FY08 Eligibility by Class (2003-2012) for All MCAS Support Programs



¹ Class of 2012 eligibility numbers are based on the “MCAS 2007 megafile_11.15.07” file. Class of 2003-2011 eligibility numbers are based on the “HS CD File_12.21.07” file. Students no longer reported in SIMS, as indicated from their status distinctions in the 2007 SIMS Fall Data collection (or the last period in which the student was reported in SIMS), are not included in the eligibility counts. Those eliminated from eligibility include the following students: graduated with competency determination, permanent exclusions, dropped out, and deceased.

Program Data

The table below includes all currently available information regarding the number of students from the Classes of 2003-2012 eligible to be served (nearly 150,000), the number of funded entities (230), and the number of students proposed to be served (more than 24,000) in FY 08 MCAS Low-Scoring Student Support programs. These numbers do not include information on earmarked programs funded through line item 7061-9404.

Particularly noteworthy is that the total number of students proposed to be served is nearly twice that of FY 07 (more than 24,000 this year vs. just under 12,500 last year). This is primarily a result of the increased amount of funds available for these programs through line item 7061-9404 (approximately \$10.5M in FY 08 compared to less than \$7.9M in FY 07).

Allocation (A) and Competitive (C) Grant Programs	# Students Eligible	# Entities Funded	# Students Proposed to be Served in FY08
Districts / Approved Private Special Education Schools & Collaboratives (A) – for Classes of 2003-12	149,099	122	14,800
One Stop Career Centers (C) - for Classes of 2003-08	6,561	22	3,380
Work & Learning Programs (C) - for Classes of 2003-09	7,870	23	1,892
Higher Education Institutions (C) - for Classes of 2003-09	9,275	18	915
Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success – CPSS (C) - for Classes of 2010-12	20,876	29	1,642
Competitive Contracts			
Workforce Investment Boards for Connecting Activities	18,546	16	1,472
TOTALS	149,099	230	24,101 <i>(16% of eligible)</i>

Additional information regarding data included in the table:

The number of entities funded and students proposed to be served by districts and approved special education schools and collaboratives includes only data related to school year programs that have been proposed as of January 2, 2008. The final numbers will be higher, as these grantees have until March 7, 2008, to apply for school year programs, and until April 11, 2008, to apply for summer programs.

The total number of students to be served by higher education institutions will also be more than what is listed in the table, because these entities partner with other grantees to serve additional students (primarily through the work & learning program and the Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success program).

The competitive contracts to Workforce Investment Boards do not have eligibility requirements based on MCAS scores. Thus, the number of eligible students listed in the table is the number eligible across the state from the Classes of 2003-2009 who have not

yet earned their competency determination (CD). The proposed number to be served includes those who have not yet earned their CD and will receive integrated work and learning model MCAS remediation services with a structured internship. An additional 5,321 students are proposed to be served who have not yet earned their competency determination *or* scored in the needs improvement category on the 10th grade MCAS test or retests and will receive connected MCAS remediation services that are connected to career or academic development with a structured internship.

The total number of eligible students is an unduplicated count equal to the total number of eligible students across the state. Allocation grant programs may serve any of these eligible students, whereas competitive grant programs have more limited eligibility numbers based on targeted populations. The total number of students proposed to served, however, is not an unduplicated count. Students may have been proposed to be served under more than one grant and, as a result, may have been counted twice. Actual enrollment data received after the end of FY 08 will allow counts to be unduplicated based on state assigned student identification numbers (SASIDs).

Funded Programs

As noted above, programs serving students through these line items are funded through five school year/summer grant programs and one annual competitive contract initiative. These programs are described below.

Grant Programs (7061-9404)

The Academic Support grant programs supported through line item 7061-9404 fund entities in virtually all parts of the state. Awards to individual entities are based on local needs and program scope and range from approximately \$1,000 to \$625,000. Funded entities primarily include School Districts, One Stop Career Centers, Higher Education Institutions, Workforce Investment Boards, Regional Employment Boards, Private Industry Councils, and Approved Private Special Education Schools and Collaboratives. Grants are distributed either through an allocation or a competitive process.

- Allocation Grants (7061-9404)

1. Districts & Approved Private Special Education Schools / Collaboratives

One of the five grant programs is an allocation grant that provides funding for any eligible entity that meets program requirements. The purpose of this program is to enhance academic support services needed to meet the competency determination (CD) for students in the Classes of 2003-2011 who have performed in the warning/failing (level 1) category, in addition to students from the Classes of 2010-2011 who performed in the needs improvement (level 2) category on their most recent English language arts and/or mathematics MCAS tests or re-tests. Summer programs may also serve students in the Class of 2012 transitioning into high school who have scored at level one or level two on their most recent English language arts and/or mathematics MCAS. A list of allocation grantees can be found on <http://www.doe.mass.edu/as/pathways/dlist.html>.

- Competitive Grants (7061-9404)

The four remaining grant programs distribute funds through a competitive process that awards funding to proposals that best demonstrate a quality program that will be run in accordance with program goals and parameters.

2. One Stop Career Centers

The purpose of this grant program is to broker options that address the unique academic, employment, and career needs of post 12th grade students (Classes of 2003-2008) who need further support to attain the skills necessary to earn their CD. Within each funded region, the services designed as part of this initiative leverage existing opportunities available to students for remediation services in English language arts and mathematics. Grantees are posted on the following page:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/as/pathways/centers.html>.

3. Work & Learning Programs

The purpose of this program is to provide quality innovative and intensive instruction in English language arts and mathematics through *work and learning* programs to students in the Classes of 2003-2009 who have not yet earned their CD. A list of grantees can be found on this web page:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/as/pathways/worklearn.html>.

4. Higher Education Institutions & Partners

The purpose of this program is to provide academic instruction (English language arts and mathematics) and support services that enable students from the Classes of 2003-2009 to continue to pursue their CD while providing pathways to further education. A list of grantees can be seen on this web page:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/as/pathways/colleges.html>.

5. Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success

The purpose of this program is the development of Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success (CPSS) to supplement existing district resources. Goals include:

- a. Serving as a part of a comprehensive intervention process to help students meet and exceed the CD standards on their initial try in the spring of 10th grade;
- b. Increasing student (and family) awareness on the purposefulness of their high school experience in relation to future opportunities through the development of preliminary career/college plans (and other means);
- c. Increasing school district and community partners' ability to provide School Year and Summer academic support in English language arts (ELA) and/or mathematics for students in the Classes of 2010-2012 who scored in the warning or needs improvement categories (levels 1 or 2) on their most recent ELA and/or mathematics MCAS tests; and
- d. Developing a CPSS product to increase college and career readiness, which may or may not include enhancement of a previous year's Collaborative Success Plan (CSP).

A list of school year and summer CPSS grantees can be found, respectively, on <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants08/awards/619.html> and <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/Grants/grants08/awards/592.html>.

Competitive Contracts (7027-0019)

1. Connecting Activities (through Workforce Investment Boards)

The competitive contracts funded by line item 7027-0019 support Connecting Activities through Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). This initiative is designed to drive and sustain the statewide school-to-career system. This state line item leverages the initial federal School to Work investment in Massachusetts that created self-sustaining Local Partnerships throughout the Commonwealth. Connecting Activity contracts support the 16 local Workforce Investment Boards working in concert with their local Youth Councils to implement school-to-career policy and programming connected to MCAS remediation services in English language arts and mathematics. A list of these WIBs can be found on <http://www.massworkforce.com/region-map.php>.

Summary

This report included the preliminary information available on FY 08 programs. Current data showed that nearly 150,000 students from the Classes of 2003-2012 are eligible to be served, and that more than 24,000 are proposed to be served in FY 08 MCAS Low-Scoring Student Support programs.

In addition to the \$10,525,863 from line item 7061-9404 that supports the five Academic Support programs discussed in this report, and the \$3,979,000 from line item 7027-0019 supporting the Connecting Activities contracts, a total of \$2,690,000 is devoted to earmarks in the 7061-9404 budget language. For the full text of line item 7061-9404, see Appendix A, and for a list of associated earmarks, see “Targeted Funds” on this web page: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/as/grants/>.

The Department will provide additional information in a subsequent report that will be submitted as an addendum to this FY 08 report. It will include the number of students who have passed the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs, as well as how many of these students have and have not met local graduation requirements.

Similarly, an addendum to the January 2007 report regarding FY 07 programs will be submitted later this year once complete post-test score information is compiled and analyzed for students who participated in the FY 07 summer programs and took the November 2007 retest.

Appendix: Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007 MCAS academic support line-item

7061-9404: For grants to cities, towns and regional school districts to provide targeted remediation programs in English and math to students in the classes of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and beyond, scoring in level one or two on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam established by the board of education pursuant to the provisions of sections 1D and 1I of said chapter 69 of the General Laws; provided, that the department and districts shall ensure that services are available to students with disabilities; provided further, that in awarding remediation funds, preference may be given to schools and districts at risk of or determined to be under-performing in accordance with said sections 1J and 1K of said chapter 69; provided further, that the purpose of this program shall be to improve students' performance on the MCAS exam through replication of services and educational strategies with proven results as determined by the department of education provided further, that such programs shall supplement currently funded local, state, and federal programs at the school or district; provided further, that funds shall be expended for a competitive grant program to fund academic support and college transition services to be implemented in fiscal year 2008, and operated by public institutions of higher learning or by public-private partnerships in the commonwealth, for students in the graduating classes of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 who have completed high school but have not yet obtained a competency determination as defined in section 1D of chapter 69 as measured by the MCAS assessment instrument authorized by said section 1I of said chapter 69, but who are working to pass the English and math MCAS tests, obtain a competency determination, and earn a high school diploma; provided further, that for the purpose of the programs, appropriated funds may be expended through August 31, 2008 to allow for summer remediation programs; provided further, that funds shall be expended for a competitive grant program to fund Pathways programs targeting eleventh and twelfth graders, instituted by local school districts, public institutions of higher education and qualified public and private educational services organizations and One Stop Career Centers including, but not limited to, school-to-work connecting activities, creating worksite learning experiences for students as an extension of the classroom, outreach programs for students who will need post-twelfth grade remediation to attain the skills necessary to pass MCAS, and counseling programs to educate parents and high school students on post-twelfth grade remediation options; provided further, that funds shall be expended for a competitive grant program, guidelines for which shall be developed by the department of education, for intensive remediation programs, in communities with students in the graduating classes of 2003 to 2012, inclusive, who have not obtained a competency determination or have scored in levels one or two on either the English or math MCAS exams; provided further, that the department of education may give preference for such assistance to those districts with a high percentage of high school students scoring in level one on the MCAS exam in English and math; provided further, that eligible applicants shall include individual high schools, and those institutions which shall have partnered with a high school or group of high schools; provided further, that no district shall receive a grant from this appropriation until said district submits to the department of education a comprehensive district plan pursuant to the provisions of section 1I of chapter 69, to improve performance of all student populations including, but not limited to, students with disabilities; provided further, that

not less than \$1,000,000 shall be transferred to JFY networks, a non-profit corporation formerly Jobs for Youth, for a matching grant for the purposes of enhancing student performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System examination through instructional computer software; provided further, that \$300,000 shall be transferred to the Efficacy Institute for work in 'Campaigns for Proficiency' in Springfield, Boston and Lawrence, to be used for training public school teachers and youth workers in after-school programs in methods for using assessment data to develop effective strategies to improve student performance on the MCAS; provided further, that not less than \$75,000 shall be expended for Link Services at the Pettengill House to provide advocacy counseling, referrals, emergency assistance and prevention education programs to the children and families of both Triton Regional and Amesbury Public Schools; provided further, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended for Casa Dominicana in Lawrence; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for Lawrence Learning Center and Community Development in the City of Lawrence; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for Centro Latino de Chelsea to provide adult basic education services in the city of Chelsea; provided \$75,000 shall be expended for The WhizKids Foundation Inc.; provided further, that not less than \$370,000 shall be allocated to the Framingham public schools to evaluate existing dual-immersion programs in the town of Framingham and elsewhere in the commonwealth including an evaluation of best practices and all professional development related to these programs; provided further, that any evaluation will examine the likelihood and efficiency of replication of these programs and practices in school districts with a large percentage of English language learners; provided further, that these funds may be expended for professional development related to these programs; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for a pilot program operated by a non-profit organization, staffed by certified teachers and college aged tutors, to provide after school and summer educational services to students in low-income urban communities that require additional assistance to become academically proficient; provided further that said pilot shall provide student instruction for two and half hours in core curricula such as math and literacy using a multi-cultural approach and shall provide opportunities to work with tutors on homework, community service, team self- esteem and relationship building; provided further, that not less than \$180,000 shall be expended for the Invest-in-Kids program to provide after school programs in the city of New Bedford; provided further that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Clean Slate program in the city of Springfield; and provided further, that \$50,000 shall be expended for the Astro Park Astronomy Facility at Barnstable High School; provided further, that notwithstanding any eligibility requirements herein, \$150,000 shall be expended for a pilot program operated by the Randolph public schools to provide educational services to students that require additional assistance to become academically proficient; and provided further, that the pilot program may use a multi-cultural approach and provide opportunities for community service and relationship building; provided further, that \$15,000 shall be expended for the Lynn At-Risk Youth; ***provided further, that the department shall issue a report, no later than February 1, 2008 and annually thereafter as a condition of continued funding under this account, in collaboration with the board of higher education, describing MCAS support programs for the graduating classes of 2003 to 2012, inclusive, funded by items 7061-9404 and 7027- 0019, school to work accounts, institutions of public higher education, and other sources, including federal sources; provided further, that such report shall include, but not be limited to,***

the number of students eligible to participate in such programs, the number of students participating in such programs, the number of students who have passed the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs, but not met local graduation requirements, and the number of students who have passed the MCAS assessment and obtained a competency determination through these programs and met local graduation requirements; provided further, that said report shall be provided to the chairs of the house and senate ways and means committees and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education; provided further, that any grant funds distributed from this item to a city, town or regional school district shall be deposited with the treasurer of such city, town, or regional school district and held in a separate account and shall be expended by the school committee of such city, town, or regional school district without further appropriation, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary; and provided further that no costs shall be expended for personnel costs\$13,215,863