



Massachusetts Department of  
**ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

**Report to the Legislature:  
Professional Development Expenditures**

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7061-0008  
November 2008

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**  
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This document was prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D  
Commissioner

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# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

November 20, 2008

Dear Members of the General Court:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education respectfully submits this "Report to the Legislature: Professional Development Expenditures" pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, line-item 7061-0008, which states:

*"... provided further that each school district shall report annually to the department of education on its professional development expenditures, in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner and consistent with the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and provided further, that the department of education shall report annually to the house and senate committees on ways and means on school districts' professional development spending..."*

All public school districts report professional development expenditures as part of the required End of Year Financial Report in four areas: professional development leadership, teacher/instructional staff professional days, substitute salaries for teachers/instructional staff, and professional development stipends, providers, and expenses. For FY07, professional development spending rose to \$209 million statewide, nearly attaining the peak amount from FY03. The median district spent \$138 per pupil.

The Department has concerns about the significant variation in professional development expenditures and opportunities for our educators. Professional development spending targeted especially to efforts to close the achievement gap and support all educators in getting all students to proficiency will be addressed in greater detail in other reports filed with the legislature.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

# Report on Professional Development Expenditures

## **Introduction**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education respectfully submits this “Report to the Legislature: Professional Development Expenditures” pursuant to Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007, line-item 7061-0008, which states:

*“... provided further that each school district shall report annually to the department of education on its professional development expenditures, in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner and consistent with the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and provided further, that the department of education shall report annually to the house and senate committees on ways and means on school districts' professional development spending....”*

All school districts in the Commonwealth are required to file an End of Year Financial Report (EOYFR) with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) that details spending activity for the most recently completed fiscal year. The EOYFR data base is the source for the following analysis. This report does not include programmatic aspects of professional development.

## **Description of Functional Areas and Source of Funds**

There are four separate subcategories in the Department’s chart of accounts related to professional development. The functional areas are:

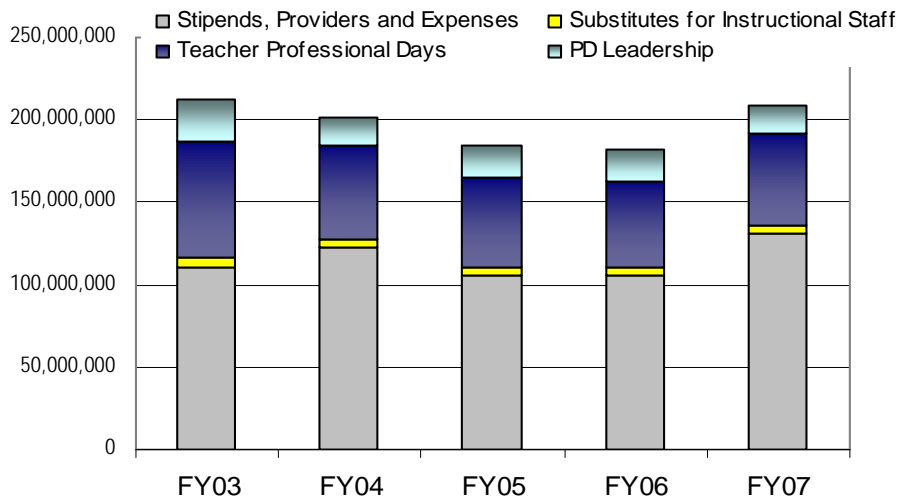
- **Professional development leadership (2351)** includes the full-time or prorated salaries of directors who spend at least 50 percent of their time engaged in leadership activities.
- **Teacher/instructional staff professional days (2353)** includes the salaries of teachers and instructional staff who participate in in-service days beyond the contractual number of days of instruction (greater than 180), where at least 50 percent of the day is devoted to professional development. This code also includes stipends for professional staff providing professional development services beyond the regular length of the school day.
- **Substitute salaries for teachers/instructional staff at professional development (2355).**
- **Professional development stipends, providers, and expenses (2357)** includes salaries for teacher trainers, full-time or prorated shares of salaries of instructional supervisors, teachers and other professional staff who spend 50 percent or more of their time providing professional development. Includes professional staff providing training and support to new teachers, teachers being trained to implement new curriculum or instructional practices, and/or teachers targeted for training and support to remedy performance weaknesses. Includes master and

mentor teachers, curriculum implementation coaches, and others whose job function is to provide in-district professional development.

**Professional Development Expenditures, All Funding Sources**

Professional development spending statewide rose in FY07 after several years of decline. The \$209 million spent in FY07 was nearly back at the level of \$212 million at least in nominal dollars.

**Chart 1  
Professional Development Spending FY03 to FY07  
Massachusetts Public School Districts**

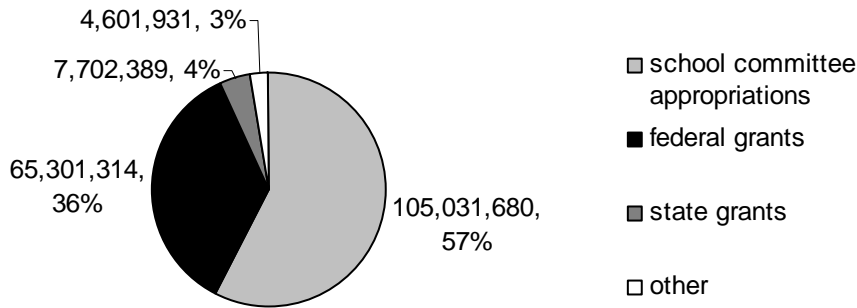


**Table 1: Spending On Professional Development, by Functional Area, FY03 to FY07**

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07
Total	212,035,380	201,543,015	184,671,802	182,637,194	209,260,159
Stipends, Providers and Expenses	110,697,342	123,004,806	105,887,452	105,999,805	131,079,287
Substitutes for Instructional Staff	5,869,604	4,390,304	4,499,275	4,753,504	4,261,341
Teacher Professional Days	70,241,862	56,841,849	54,974,658	52,397,226	56,232,357
PD Leadership	25,226,572	17,306,056	19,310,417	19,486,659	17,687,174

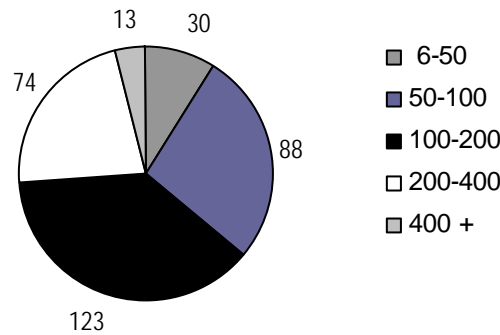
Districts rely much more heavily upon grants to support their professional development activities than they do for other district costs. In FY07 40 percent of the \$209 million spent around the Commonwealth was from state and federal grants, compared to just 6.4 percent of total expenditures.

**Chart 2: PD Spending FY07 By Funding Source**



There is considerable variation among school districts in the amount spent on professional development. In FY07 thirteen districts spent more than \$400 per pupil, while 30 districts spent less than \$50 per pupil. The median amount was \$138 per pupil.

**Chart 3: PD Spending Ranges Per Pupil  
Number of Districts, FY07**



Detailed listings of each district's expenditures for professional development as well as all school functional areas can be found on the Department's school finance website [http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/schfin/statistics/function07\\_detail.aspx](http://finance1.doe.mass.edu/schfin/statistics/function07_detail.aspx)

### **Summary**

All public school districts report professional development expenditures as part of the required End of Year Financial Report in four areas: professional development leadership, teacher/instructional staff professional days, substitute salaries for teachers/instructional staff, and professional development stipends, providers, and expenses. For FY07, professional development spending rose to \$209 million statewide, nearly attaining the peak amount from FY03. The median district spent \$138 per pupil.

The Department has concerns about the significant variation in professional development expenditures and opportunities. Professional development spending targeted especially to efforts to close the achievement gap and support all educators in getting all students to proficiency will be addressed in greater detail in other reports filed with the legislature.

APPENDIX

Chapter 61 of the Acts of 2007

7061-0008.. For school aid to cities, towns, regional school districts, counties maintaining agricultural schools, independent vocational schools and independent agricultural and technical schools to be distributed under chapters 70 and 76 of the General Laws and section 3; provided, that \$200,000 of the funds allocated from this item to the city of Lawrence by said section 3 shall be transferred to the University of Massachusetts at Lowell for its college preparation program; provided further, that each school district shall report annually to the department of education on its professional development expenditures, in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner and consistent with the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and provided further, that the department of education shall report annually to the house and senate committees on ways and means on school districts' professional development spending..... \$3,725,671,328