



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

July 26, 2010

Secretary Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to amend Massachusetts' application for the Race to the Top competition following the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's recent vote to adopt the Common Core State Standards.

In Massachusetts the state Board has the legal authority to adopt curriculum standards. As the enclosed resolution indicates, the Board unanimously voted on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 to replace our current curriculum frameworks with the Common Core State Standards.

We intend to augment these standard with additional materials and resources within the 15 percent allowance. These enhancements will include pre-K standards in both English language arts and mathematics and suggested authors, illustrators, and literary works, among others.

Thank you for adding this amended information to our state's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitch D. Chester".

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

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

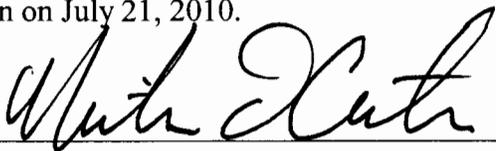
VOTED: that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in accordance with Chapter 69, Sections 1D and 1E of the General Laws, adopt the 2010 Common Core State Standards to replace the current Massachusetts curriculum frameworks in English Language Arts and Mathematics, contingent upon augmenting and customizing the Common Core State Standards within the 15 percent allowance. Specifically:

1. The Commissioner shall reconvene the Curriculum Framework Review Panels for English Language Arts and Mathematics and the panels that he convened to review the Common Core State Standards, and direct them to consider specific standards and other features to strengthen and augment the Common Core State Standards, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. **English Language Arts:** Pre-K standards such as those contained in the working draft of the revised Massachusetts standards (2010); guiding principles for the construction and evaluation of English language arts curricula such as those contained in the current Massachusetts framework (2001); suggested authors, illustrators and literary works such as those contained in Appendices A and B of the current Massachusetts framework (2001); and selected standards relating to the identification of characteristics of literary genres such as those contained in the working draft of the revised standards (2010).
 - b. **Mathematics:** Pre-K standards such as those contained in the working draft of the revised Massachusetts standards (2010); standards related to arithmetic computation and automaticity of number facts in grades K-5; clarification of the prerequisite standards that will prepare students for Algebra I; sample problems that illustrate expected depth of understanding of the standards; and clarification of the intent of the Common Core high school standards designated with a “+” symbol.
2. No later than October 2010, the Commissioner shall present his recommendations for augmenting and customizing the Common Core to the Board and, subject to Board approval, shall solicit public comment. Following the public comment period, the Commissioner shall present to

the Board the final Common Core State Standards including the Massachusetts-specific augmentation for the Board's approval. Upon approval by the Board, the final documents shall be the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The vote was unanimous.

This is a true copy of the vote of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on July 21, 2010.

Attest: 

Date: 7-26-10

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
and Secretary to the Board