Education

Timeline

1. January 10, 2008: Governor Patrick files "An Act Reorganizing Certain Education Agencies" under Article 87 of the Massachusetts Constitution to reorganize the state's education system by creating a cabinet-level secretary of education (A-7, speech A-10).
2. January 29, 2008: Governor Patrick testifies on behalf of "An Act Reorganizing Certain Education Agencies" (A-13).
3. February 15, 2008: "An Act Reorganizing Certain Education Agencies" is approved by the legislature (B-1060).
4. June 23-25, 2008: Governor Patrick unveils his Education Action Agenda, the Commonwealth's blueprint to move Massachusetts through its next phase in education reform by 2020 (press releases/speeches A-19 to A-47, report B-489).
5. August 8, 2008: Governor Patrick signs "An Act Providing for the Public Higher Education Capital Improvement Needs of the Commonwealth," a $2.2 billion higher education bond bill (A-48, B-1052).
6. October 14, 2009: Governor Patrick signs Executive Order No. 513 "Establishing the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Advisory Council" (A-50, B-51).
7. January 18, 2010: Governor Patrick signs "An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap" to turnaround underperforming schools, promote innovation and choice and eliminate persisting achievement gaps in Massachusetts (A-52, speech A-56, B-1007).
8. January 2010: Lieutenant Governor Murray chairs the first meeting of Governor Patrick's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Advisory Council (A-64).
9. March 4, 2010: Massachusetts is selected as one of 16 finalists in the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) competition (A-67).
10. August 24, 2010: Governor Patrick announces that Massachusetts scores highest of the ten winners in the Race to the Top competition and will be awarded $250 million over the next four years to implement landmark reforms in public education (A-70, text of applications B-584).
11. September 28, 2010: Lieutenant Governor Murray outlines Massachusetts' first ever strategic plan for tying economic development to educational enhancement in the fields of science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) (A-75, B-2).
12. March 1, 2011: Lieutenant Governor Murray announces that Massachusetts will serve as a national model for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education initiatives as national organizations look to further implement STEM education programming in schools across the country (A-79).
13. November 9, 2011: Governor Patrick announces new strategies to close educational achievement gaps, including the Gateway Cities Agenda (A-92, speech A-95).
14. December 16, 2011: The Patrick-Murray Administration announces that Massachusetts is one of nine grant award winners in President Obama's Early

Learning Challenge competition and will receive $50 million over the next four years (A-105, proposal B-58).

15. January 23, 2012: Governor Patrick proposes comprehensive community college reform in his State of the Commonwealth speech (A-109, speech A-112)
16. July 8.2012: Governor Patrick Signs the FY13 Budget, implementing his comprehensive community college reform plan and portions of his Gateway Cities Agenda (A-136, Gateway Cities Agenda fact sheet B-1108, community college fact sheet B-49, text of budget B-56)
17. September 26, 2012: Governor Patrick signs "An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency," which will strengthen and streamline literacy initiatives in Massachusetts (A-149, B-1078).
18. October 9, 2012: Governor Patrick announces $298 million for community colleges over five years in his 2013 Capital Investment Plan (A-163, B-297).
19. November 29, 2012: Governor Patrick hosts the first meeting of the new Massachusetts Community College Board Chairs (A-198).
20. May 29, 2013: Lieutenant Governor Murray announces the appointment of Congressman Joe Kennedy to chair Governor Patrick's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Advisory Council (A-194).

Results

"An Act Reorganizing Certain Education Agencies" is approved by the Legislature (B-1060)

- Creates the Executive Office of Education headed by a Secretary of Education and containing the following departments: Early Education and Care (existing), Elementary and Secondary Education (new name for the existing Department of Education), Higher Education (new department that will include personnel now staffing the Board of Higher Education).[1]
- Establishes a Secretary of Education position with the following powers: approval authority over the boards' hiring of each of the three commissioners; a voting seat on the UMass board as well as on the three educational boards; approval of mission statements and 5-year master plans, both at the departmental level and, within higher education, at the institutional level; and approval of budget and capital outlay requests at the departmental and institutional levels.[2]
- Provides the Governor with the authority to appoint the chair of the UMass board.[3]

Readiness Centers

- Established in October 2009[4] based on recommendations by the Governor's Education Action Agenda to:[5]

[1] Governor Patrick Announces Plan to Create Secretary of Education (A-7).
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid (A-8).
[4] Readiness Centers Initiative (B-472).
[5] Request for Responses: Readiness Centers (B-479).

- Support the identification and development of best practices and replicable instructional models that can be utilized throughout the state, especially with regard to several statewide priorities:
  - Addressing achievement gaps;
  - Improving the quality of instruction in literacy, particularly early literacy;
  - Improving the quality of instruction for English Language Learners;
  - Improving the quality of instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses;
  - Using data more effectively to assess student progress and performance;
  - Improving the alignment of instruction across the educational continuum from birth through higher education; and
  - Improving the quality of instruction through the efficient delivery of services to smaller and under-resourced districts and communities.
- Collaborate with local, regional, and state partners to coordinate the delivery of professional development and instructional services that are already being provided and determine how to provide services that may not currently be available by:
  - Conducting an inventory of all service providers and professional development resources in the region;
  - Conducting needs assessments at the local and regional levels to identify gaps and determine which additional services should be provided; and
  - Coordinating statewide "training of trainers" initiatives to embed needed expertise at the local and regional levels.
- Collaborate with other Readiness Centers and state partners to identify statewide trends and coordinate the distribution of professional development and instructional services and other resources.

- The six centers are the Berkshire Readiness Center (BRC), Central Massachusetts Readiness Center (CMRC), Greater Boston Readiness Center (GBRC), Northeast Regional Readiness Center (NRRC), Pioneer Valley Readiness Center (PVRC), and Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center (SMRC).[6]

An Act Providing for the Public Higher Education Capital Improvement Needs of the Commonwealth (B-1052)

- Sets aside up to $1 billion for the five University of Massachusetts campuses and $1.2 billion for state ad community colleges. Funds cover projects at each of the Commonwealth's public higher education campuses, including: modernizations and expansions of classroom space; new academic centers for allied health;

[6] Readiness Center Initiative (B-472).

laboratory science and technology; repairs to existing research centers; and library renovations.[7]

Executive Order No. 513 Establishing the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Advisory Council (B-51)

- Establishes the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Advisory Council to advise the Governor and assist in informing the work of the Secretaries of Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and Housing and Economic Development on issues relating to STEM education and STEM careers in the Commonwealth.[8]
    - The Council confers with participants and parties from the public and private sector involved with STEM planning and programming as well as assesses how best to increase student interest in, and preparation for, careers in STEM.[9]
    - The Council makes recommendations concerning the creation and implementation of a statewide STEM Plan that establishes clear goals and objectives for the Commonwealth's STEM efforts over the next five years.[10]
- Massachusetts statewide STEM Initiative and STEM plan is recognized by the National Governor's Association as a top example for convening government, education and private sector resources to govern and attain quantifiable outcome improvements for students, educators, and the STEM workforce.[11]
- Massachusetts' @Scale Initiative, designed to identify and promote a portfolio of emerging "best practice" in-school and out-of-school projects spanning the STEM disciplines and grade levels from pre-K to college has been hailed as a breakthrough model for public/private funding to replicate and bring to scale transformative, system wide improvements in STEM education.[12]
    - $500,000 in funding for the first six Promising Practice Programs was secured in October 2011 and required private sector or non-profit matches. Phase II grants went out successfully as well and Phases II and IV are in the works for 2013.[13]
- The Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership program was recently selected among a cohort of only four states nationally to infuse STEM into expanded learning, afterschool and summer programs statewide.[14]

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[7] Governor Patrick Signs $2.2 Billion Higher Education Bond Bill (A-48).
[8] Executive Order No. 513 "Establishing the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Advisory Council" (B-52).
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] STEM Council Accomplishments (B-1081).
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid (B-1082).
[14] Ibid (B-1081).

- Massachusetts' annual STEM Summit, in its ninth year, is the longest running STEM conference in the nation. In 2012, the Commonwealth hosted 1,200 attendees in Gillette Stadium.[15]
- Massachusetts 15 out of 15 points, a 100% score on the STEM component on the Race to the Top application. The creation of the STEM Council was recognized as a reason for its top score.[16]

An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap (B-1007)

- Innovation Schools
  - Establishes Innovation Schools, new in-district schools that can implement creative and inventive strategies, increase student achievement, and reduce achievement gaps while keeping school funding within districts.
    - These schools operate with increased autonomy and flexibility in six areas: curriculum; budget; school schedule and calendar; staffing (including waivers from or exemptions to collective bargaining agreements); professional development; and school district policies.[17]
    - There are currently 47 Innovation schools established in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth.[18]
- Charter Schools
  - Raises the state spending cap for charter schools from 9% to 18% of new school spending in the lowest 10% performing districts.[19]
    - Requires charter operators to be "proven providers" if they open in the lowest performing districts (and the cap is at least at 9%).[20]
  - Eliminates the cap that limits the state's total charter school population to 4%. Preserves current caps of no more than 72 Commonwealth Charter Schools and no more than 48 Horace Mann Charter Schools.[21]
  - Establishes new requirements on charter schools to develop recruitment and retention plans, "back fill" student vacancies in half of the highest grades, and provide greater transparency and accountability in the approval process.[22]
  - Enables municipalities to sell excess property to charter schools.[23]
  - In February 2011, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education awarded a historic 16 new charters (13 Commonwealth Charters, 3 Horace

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[15] STEM Council Accomplishments (B-1081).
[16] Ibid.
[17] Toward Closing the Achievement Gap: A One Year Progress Report on Education in Massachusetts (C-112).
[18] Innovation Schools: Using Innovation to Promote Academic Achievement (B-315).
[19] Toward Closing the Achievement Gap: A One Year Progress Report on Education in Massachusetts (C-117).
[20] Ibid.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.

Mann Charters) the highest number of charters ever granted in a single year. These charters will result in over 7,700 new seats in charter schools.[24]

- Turnaround Provisions
  - Authorizes the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to designate up to 72 schools, or no more than 4% of all schools, as either "underperforming" (Level 4) or "chronically underperforming" (Level 5) based on student achievement and improvement measures.[25]
    - These schools and districts are targeted for aggressive intervention through a turnaround plan developed in collaboration with the superintendent, the school committee, the local teachers' union, administrators, community representatives and parents. The plan is implemented by the district superintendents and the Commissioner.[26]
    - Intervention powers include the ability to more expeditiously dismiss or replace poor performing teachers and administrators, as well as the authorization to reopen and amend collective bargaining agreements in order to drive rapid improvement.[27]
      - In both Level 4 and Level 5 schools, teachers may be dismissed for "good cause" with the right to arbitration.[28]
      - In Level 4 schools, collective bargaining agreements may be reopened without arbitration but with the option of a dispute resolution process featuring a panel of three members, with unresolved issues to be settled by the Commissioner.[29]
      - In Level 5 schools, the Commissioner shall resolve any disputes.[30]
      - In underperforming district intervention, the Commissioner may elect to trigger dispute resolution in which case the panel either must act unanimously or the Commissioner will settle any disputes.[31]
  - Since the implementation of the Achievement Gap Act in 2010, Massachusetts has identified 34 underperforming (Level 4) schools. After two years, 24 of the 34 schools have made combined gains in English

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[24] Toward Closing the Achievement Gap: A One Year Progress Report on Education in Massachusetts (C-115-116).
[25] Ibid (C-116).
[26] Ibid.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.
[30] Ibid (C-117).
[31] Ibid.

language arts and mathematics of 10 percentage points or higher on their Composite Performance Index between 2010 and 2012.[32]
    - In November 2011, Laurence Public Schools was declared a Level 5 district and appointed a receiver to manage the district in January 2012.[33]
    - The state did not initiate school intervention models in any new schools in the 2011-2012 school year.[34]

Gateway Cities Agenda

- The FY 13 budget provides $3.5 million in funding for the Gateway Cities Agenda including:
    - $3 million in competitive grant funding to operate English Language Learners Enrichment Academies. The intended outcome of these grants include measurable increases in students' English language fluency and comprehension, longer-term improvements as measured by achievement in academic courses and on standardized assessments, and higher retention and graduation rates, especially for high school students.[35]
    - $500,000 in competitive grant funding to establish Career Academies and Education and Industry Coordinating Councils (EICCs), to help provide greater opportunities for students to explore career pathways earlier in their academic careers, more motivating learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom and the creation of multiple pathways to postsecondary educational and employment opportunities.[36]

Comprehensive Community College Reform (B-56)

- FY 13 Budget
    - Each of the community colleges in the Commonwealth will have an 11-member board of trustees with a Chairwoman/Chairman appointed by the Governor.[37]
    - One member of each community college board will also serve as a non-voting member of the district trustees for vocational-technical schools that share the same geographic region as the college. This member will serve as a liaison between the two boards for the purpose of sharing information and promoting interaction.[38]
    - Each board of trustees will annually submit a report to the state government detailing estimates of maintenance, capital outlay budgets and proposed property acquisitions. This report will also include an analysis of

[32] Race to the Top Massachusetts: Year 2 Report (C-99).
[33] Massachusetts Year 2: School Year 2011-2012 (C-84).
[34] Ibid (C-85).
[35] The Gateway Cities Agenda (B-1108).
[36] Ibid (B-1109).
[37] Fiscal Year 2013 Outside Sections 46-51 (B-56).
[38] Ibid.

the collaboration between the community college and the vocational technical schools.[39]
    - The Commissioner of Higher Education will create an Office of Coordination in the Department of Higher Education and appoint a Director. This Director will, among other things, prepare an annual report for publication on progress to improve the effectiveness of the commonwealth's workforce development efforts offered through public higher education institutions.[40]
- On September 25, 2012, Governor Patrick awarded $4 million in grants to support increased skill training and workforce alignment, improved student learning outcomes and efficiency measures at community colleges across the Commonwealth.[41]
- In the Governor's Five-Year Capital Investment Plan for FY 13, the Commonwealth will spend $297 million on community college projects from 2013-2017.[42]

An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency (B-1078)

- Establishes an expert literacy panel comprised of nine members and chaired by the Education Secretary and an outside expert of children's early language and literacy development. The panel will make recommendations to the Departments of Early Education and Care, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher education on better aligning and coordinating initiatives and improving the implementation of programs to get every student in the Commonwealth reading proficiently by the end of third grade.[43]

Race to the Top

- Massachusetts came in first in Phase Two of the Race to the Top competition in 2010 and will be awarded $250 million over the next four years to implement statewide educational reforms in the Commonwealth.[44]
    - 236 of Massachusetts' 400 LEAs (1,278 schools) are participating in the Commonwealth's Race to the Top plan. These Local Education Agencies (LEAs) serve 69.3% of the students in the state (661,800 students) and over 86% of Massachusetts' students in poverty.[4546]
    - As of June 2012, 53 percent have aligned both their English language arts and their mathematics curricula to the new Massachusetts Curriculum

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[39] Fiscal Year 2013 Outside Sections 46-51 (B-56).
[40] Ibid (B-57).
[41] Governor Patrick Announces $4 Million for Community Colleges (A-145).
[42] FY 2013-2017 Five-Year Capital Investment Plan (B-302).
[43] Governor Patrick Sings Legislation to Help Close Achievement Gaps in Reading and Get All Students to Proficiency by Grade 3 (A-149).
[44] Governor Patrick, Congressional Delegation Announce Massachusetts Secures $250 Million in Race to the Top Funding (A-70).
[45] Massachusetts Year 2: School Year 2011-2012 (C-74).
[46] Race to the Top Massachusetts: Year 2 Report (C-95).

Frameworks and all districts and charter schools are expected to be aligned by the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.[47]

- As of June 2012, over 12,00 educators and 1,700 (usually administrators) in Race to the Top districts had begun training on the new educator evaluation system.[48]
- Between fall 2011 and fall 2012, more than 1,000 teachers participated in nine regional pre-advanced placement trainings to help middle and early high school educators prepare their students to meet academic standards as AP students in 11th and 12th grade.[49]
- In December 2011, Massachusetts launched the Network of Priority Partners, intended to facilitate communication among Priority Partners (a group of educational organizations that work with low-achieving LEAs to improve academic outcomes) within and across LEAs. This Network will enable the partners to share information and best practices, and coordinate and align services.[50]
  - Currently 23 Priority Partners provide services in 54 districts; nine districts are being served by more than one of the Priority Partners.[51]
- Turnaround Teacher Teams and Turnaround Leader Teams recruit, train, place, and support both new and experienced educators specializing in boosting student performance in Level 3 and 4 schools. During the first two years Massachusetts trained 22 leaders through the programs and expects to place more than 200 of the trained teachers in low-performing schools in the next two years.[52]
- In 2012, Massachusetts launched one STEM Early College High School, a program to improve access to STEM courses and resources among traditionally underrepresented groups through LEAs' partnerships with colleges and universities that offer high school students the opportunity to earn 12 to 30 college credits in STEM fields. The Commonwealth also began the planning process for opening five additional such schools.[53]

Other Achievements

- Massachusetts ranked 1st in education and 3rd overall in The Annie E. Casey Foundation's *2013 Kids Count Profile* on child well-being in the United States.[54]
- In 2011, Massachusetts' 4th and 8th graders lead the nation in reading and mathematics performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress

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[47] Race to the Top Massachusetts: Year 2 Report (C-96).
[48] Ibid (C-97).
[49] Massachusetts Year 2: School Year 2011-2012 (C-78).
[50] Ibid (C-71).
[51] Race to the Top Massachusetts: Year 2 Report (C-99).
[52] Massachusetts Year 2: School Year 2011-2012 (C-85).
[53] Ibid (C-86).
[54] Massachusetts Kids Count Profile 2013 (C-62).

exam. This was the fourth test in a row in which Massachusetts' students have scored first or tied for first place.[55]

- Massachusetts 4th graders had an average scaled score of 237 in reading, higher than in 2009 (234) and above the national average of 220. In mathematics, 4th graders scored 253, holding steady since 2009 (252) and higher than the national average of 240.[56]
- Massachusetts 8th graders scored 275 in reading, holding steady since 2009 (274) but higher than the national average of 264. In math, 8th graders scored 299, the same as in 2009 and higher than the national average of 283.[57]

- As of December 11, 2012, Massachusetts 8th graders tied for second in science achievement and tied for fifth in mathematics in the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Massachusetts 8th graders made a 14-point gain in mathematics and an 11-point gain in science achievement from 2007. [58]
  - Since 1999, 8th graders from the Commonwealth have made the highest gains of any participating country or benchmarking entity in mathematics (+48, from an average scale score of 513 to 561) and the second highest gains in science (+34, from 533 to 567).[59]

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[55] Massachusetts Students Earn Top Scores On Nation's Report Card for Fourth Consecutive Exam Year (A-89).
[56] Ibid (A-90).
[57] Massachusetts Students Earn Top Scores On Nation's Report Card for Fourth Consecutive Exam Year (A-90).
[58] Massachusetts 8th Graders Again Perform Among World Leaders in Math and Science Achievement; Score Double-Digit Gains on 2011 TIMSS (A-201).
[59] Ibid.