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Support Grows for the MA Expanded Learning Time Initiative

Grant from The Boston Foundation will support evaluation

Boston – Massachusetts 2020, a Boston-based nonprofit organization committed to expanding educational and economic opportunities for children and families across the Commonwealth, announced today that The Boston Foundation has made a grant of \$60,000 to support the evaluation of the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative.

“The support of The Boston Foundation is critical to carrying out a rigorous evaluation of this innovative school reform initiative while also continuously refining the model as it expands to other districts and schools across the Commonwealth,” said Jennifer Davis, President of Massachusetts 2020.

Massachusetts 2020 has partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Education to lead the Expanded Learning Time Initiative, a first-in-the-nation statewide effort to redesign and expand the traditional public school schedule in order to increase student achievement. Ten schools in five districts, serving 4,700 school children, launched their redesigned schools in September, 2006 with schedules that include at least 30 percent more time for core academics, enrichment, teacher professional development and common planning time. There are an additional seven schools in five districts planning to expand their schedules in September 2007 and more than 75 schools in 27 districts working toward potential implementation in September 2008.

"Expanded learning time isn't just about adding more minutes to the day; it's about rethinking how we use our time in the classroom and doing more to ensure that students are engaged in their learning," said Education Commissioner David P. Driscoll. "Students in schools that implement this properly learn more and achieve more, it's as simple as that."

Massachusetts 2020 was founded in 2000 by Chris Gabrieli, a civic and business entrepreneur, and Jennifer Davis, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education and Executive Director of the Mayor of Boston's 2:00-to-6:00 After-School Initiative. It operates as an "action tank" to drive public policy, research,

and technical assistance to expand learning opportunities for children across Massachusetts.

The Boston Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, has an endowment of close to \$770 million. Last year, The Boston Foundation made grants of \$63.9 million to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of \$73.6 million. The Boston Foundation is made up of more than 850 separate charitable funds, which have been established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Boston Foundation also serves as a civic leader, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to build community.

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