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First Year of The Expanded Learning Time Initiative Demonstrates Promising MCAS Results, Teacher and Parent Satisfaction

Data Released at Third Annual Expanded Learning Time Summit Featuring Remarks from Governor Deval Patrick and Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer

Boston – After the first year of the Expanded Learning Time Initiative in Massachusetts, parents, teachers and MCAS scores indicate promising results for this innovative educational reform. The data was released today at the 3rd Annual ELT Summit hosted by Massachusetts 2020 and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

In the 2006-2007 school year, ten schools in five districts across the state, enrolling 4,700 students, redesigned their school day, increasing the school schedule by at least 300 hours. Early results show that across all three subject areas, students in ELT schools achieved greater gains in proficiency on MCAS as compared to students in these schools in previous years: the ELT student proficiency rate grew 44% in math, 39% in ELA, and 19% in science. ELT schools also increased the percentage of students at or above proficiency in ELA by 10.8%, while the state only increased by 3.5%. Additionally, 6 out of 10 ELT schools made AYP in Math, a 100% increase from the previous year and there was a 40% increase in ELT schools making AYP in English.

Parents and teachers are also very satisfied with ELT. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of parents and 70% of teachers say that expanded learning time has had a positive impact on their students according to surveys of parents at three randomly selected ELT schools and teachers at all 10 ELT schools. Seventy-two percent (72%) of parents indicated that ELT has improved the quality of their children's education and 65% of teachers said that ELT has allowed them to incorporate experiential learning into the school day.

“We have good reasons to celebrate not only the goals and objectives of expanded learning time, but the results as well,” Governor Patrick said in taped remarks to the ELT Summit.

Over 500 school and district leaders, teachers, school committee members, union leaders,

community-based organizations and policymakers from Massachusetts and from around the country attended the ELT Summit, held at UMass Boston, to explore and analyze the key issues related to creating ELT schools. Other featured speakers at the conference included Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, Governor Patrick's Special Advisor for Education, former Colorado Governor Roy Romer, Chairman of the Strong American Schools Campaign, Jeffrey Nellhaus, acting Massachusetts Commissioner of Education and Paul Reville, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education.

“On average, students in other industrialized countries spend 193 days annually in school, compared with only 180 in the U.S. Over 12 years, this deficit translates into a gap of nearly one full school year,” said Governor Romer. “We need the nation to embrace expanded learning time initiatives so that schools can go more in depth into subjects that are critical for 21st century jobs.”

The implementation of the Expanded Learning Time Initiative is the result of a unique public-private partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Education and Massachusetts 2020. All 10 pioneering schools in the first year of ELT renewed their commitment to the initiative and signed on for a second consecutive year and four out of the five pioneering districts expanded the ELT initiative to additional schools. And now, through a \$13 million investment by the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Deval Patrick, nine more schools have implemented Expanded Learning Time in the 2007-2008 school year and more than 30 schools are planning for ELT in 2008.

“The members of the House of Representatives have been enthusiastic supporters of this bold first step to increase the time our children are learning,” said House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi. “We have been impressed by the effort to carefully monitor and document the success of this initiative and the preliminary results are encouraging. Under the leadership of Chairwoman Haddad, we will continue to closely monitor this important experiment and look forward to receiving more encouraging news from the schools that are participating.”

The survey results and MCAS data were released as part of the first Expanded Learning Time Initiative Annual Report, which Massachusetts 2020 released today at the ELT Summit. The Annual Report reviews the experience of the pioneering schools, highlights these early indicators of success, and showcases what the new school day looks and feels like. Visit www.mass2020.org to read the full Annual Report.

“After just one year, the ELT Initiative is already yielding promising results in student performance,” said Chris Gabrieli, Chairman of Massachusetts 2020. “As a result, this first in the nation effort to redesign schools with substantially more time for learning is growing rapidly in Massachusetts and is poised to become a model for national replication.”

About Massachusetts 2020

Massachusetts 2020 is an education non-profit based in Boston, Massachusetts with a mission to expand educational and economic opportunities for children and families

across Massachusetts. The organization is leading the Expanded Learning Time Initiative with the Massachusetts Department of Education, and with the support of the state legislature, working directly with superintendents, teachers, parents, community organization partners, and unions to help reshape the American school calendar. Launched in 2005, the vision of the initiative is to equip all students with the skills, knowledge and leadership abilities required for full participation in the economic and civic life of our 21st century global society.

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