



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 15, 2009

Dear Educators:

We are writing to thank you for the outstanding work you do each day on behalf of the Commonwealth's nearly 1 million public school students, and to wish you well at the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

We were proud last week to announce the remarkable improvements you helped to deliver on the 2009 statewide MCAS exams. After several years of flat or declining ELA results, this year we saw across the board improvement, as well as noteworthy gains by our Black and Hispanic students. Most impressive is that more than three-quarters of our 10th graders scored Proficient or higher on the English and Math exams; a tremendous improvement over the pace set in 1998, when just one-quarter scored Proficient or higher on both exams. This dramatic turnaround is proof that with the proper tools, support and educational leadership, all students can achieve at high levels. Time and again, on state, national and international measures, Massachusetts students have outscored their peers, thanks in large part to your hard work and dedication to their success.

We do not thank you enough for all of the good that you do for our children and our communities. We want to take this opportunity now, and express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude. Thank you for the energy, expertise and countless hours you invest in the education of the Commonwealth's students. With your help, all students will be prepared for success in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick".

Governor Deval Patrick

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Murray".

Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray