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MASSACHUSETTS  
BUSINESS ALLIANCE  
FOR EDUCATION

### **Statement of MBAE Regarding the 2009 MCAS Results September 17, 2009**

The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) believes that every student deserves an excellent education that will prepare them for future success. Since the establishment of the MCAS as a uniform statewide assessment system, Massachusetts has made significant progress toward this goal. Our state's system of academic standards and assessments ensures that all students in all districts have the chance to develop and demonstrate core competencies that are essential for success in college, career and citizenship. As we raise the bar to proficiency for all students, this system can and does help identify where we still have work to do.

The 2009 MCAS results illustrate that education reform is still a work in progress despite our state's leadership on some national measures of student achievement. Clearly, we are not serving students equitably across all districts. The Commonwealth must do more both to meet the diverse needs of learners in all schools and to raise achievement levels for all. For example, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's new system for accountability and assistance will provide the structure and tools for identifying and replicating exemplary practices and supporting the schools that struggle most. Aggressive implementation of this new approach can accelerate progress and improve results where students are striving to meet proficiency.

Our state's social and economic health is dependent upon a skilled, highly educated workforce. We must close persistent educational achievement gaps among our students to meet demands for the talent that has powered our state's growth in the past. It is critical that Massachusetts address the chronic inequities of student learning highlighted by these MCAS results to support education advancement equitably across the entire state