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## **MBAE Congratulates Massachusetts on Race to the Top Victory**

### *State given opportunity to accelerate education reforms*

**Boston – August 24, 2010** – The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) applauds the state’s victory in the Race to the Top competition, and the opportunity this provides to accelerate education reforms. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan’s announcement that Massachusetts will receive \$250 million was welcomed by MBAE Chairman Robert Richardson, East Coast Education Manager for Intel Massachusetts, who said, “This award will give schools and districts the resources and direction they need to prepare every child for success in college, career and citizenship.”

While Massachusetts has a national reputation for high quality education, the state lost out to Tennessee and Delaware in Phase 1 of Race to the Top. In this round, the Bay State topped the list of winners with a score of 471 out of 500 possible points. According to MBAE’s Executive Director Linda Noonan, “This designation is about more than much-needed funding – it recognizes that Massachusetts is serious about maintaining high standards, turning around low performing schools and creating a human capital system that ensures we have the very best teachers in all of our classrooms.”

The Race to the Top competition’s remaining \$3.4 billion prize pool was divided among 9 states and the District of Columbia. Massachusetts’ award will fund implementation of the programs outlined in its 200 page application. \$125 million will go directly to the 276 participating districts and charter schools that signed on to the state’s plan. The remaining \$125 million will, over four years, provide funding for the state’s reform agenda.

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MBAE endorsed the state's Race to the Top proposal since it aligned with the organization's own goals: college and career ready standards and assessments, great teachers and leaders in every classroom and school, closing the achievement gap, and appropriate accountability and support for underperforming schools. The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education will support and monitor those programs that hold the greatest promise for Commonwealth students:

- MassCore, a comprehensive college/career preparatory curriculum that will become the *default* curriculum in the state's high schools;
- Common Core standards and assessments supplemented with Massachusetts' specific standards will ensure that our state's are still one of the most rigorous in the nation;
- Educator evaluation and compensation systems capable of recognizing and developing effective teachers through appropriate use of student performance data and other measures;
- Dropout prevention programs, including an Early Warning Information System, to provide early identification and support that can lead to improved statewide practices;
- A Turnaround Corps of teachers and school leaders trained and committed to improving underperforming schools will provide targeted assistance to the schools most in need.

The Race to the Top program has created unprecedented energy and activity in education reform across the country. MBAE is pleased Massachusetts will remain a central leader of this movement and that this momentum will carry the state forward until *every* student in the Commonwealth is graduating from high school ready for college, career, and citizenship.

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### **About MBAE**

*The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE) is committed to a high quality public education system that will prepare all students to engage successfully in a global economy and society. We bring together business and education leaders to promote education policies and practices based on measurable standards of achievement, accountability for performance, and equitable educational opportunities for all students.*