

Educating a 21st Century Workforce

***Linda M. Noonan, Executive Director
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education***



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STEM Symposium: 21st Century Learning System

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The Challenge

Increase Awareness of 21st Century Demands

Prepare ALL Students for College and Career

Close the Persistent Achievement Gap



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Work Readiness Skills Massachusetts Employers Want

Communication – Written and Presentation Skills

Basic Math and Technical (Computer) Skills

Execution Skills – Problem-solving, following instructions, carrying out multiple tasks

Work Ethic – Motivation and drive, realistic expectations, respect for self and colleagues

Conduct and Deportment – Appropriate workplace etiquette and behavior



Source: Preparing for the Future: Employer Perspectives on Work Readiness Skills <http://www.mbae.org/uploads/01122006111154MBAEReport-WorkSkills.pdf>

Massachusetts Context

- **Graduation rates and student achievement are both too low to meet future challenges**
- **Academic standards in High Schools are not aligned with postsecondary and workplace entry requirements**
- **A rigorous high school curriculum is an indicator of future success yet access not equal**
- **Postsecondary education and training is essential for most jobs yet preparation not a universal expectation**



MBAE Recommended Framework for College and Career Readiness

- **Reform the fundamental high school model**
- **Align Curriculum with demands of college and career**
- **Ensure assessments measure relevant skills and content mastery**
- **Create a system of partnerships to support and sustain reforms**



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Educating a 21st Century Workforce: A Call to Action on High School Reform
<http://www.mbae.org/uploads/06102008230519EducatingA21stCenturyWorkforce.pdf>

Reform the High School Model

1. Strengthen career counseling and guidance support
2. Incorporate flexible alternatives to a four-year schedule and increase instructional time
3. Increase dual enrollment program opportunities



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Align Curriculum with the Demands of College and Career

1. Make MassCore the **statewide** minimum requirement for a diploma
2. Include 21st Century Skills across the curriculum
3. Provide elective credit for work-based or service learning



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Ensure Assessments Measure Relevant Skills and Content Mastery

1. Ensure that exit requirements measure college and career readiness
2. Implement a statewide system of end-of-course assessments



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Create a System of Education-Business Partnerships

1. Formalize regional school-business partnerships
2. Establish long-term and meaningful partnerships between schools and businesses at the local level



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Thank You

“ The future prosperity of our students and our communities is at risk unless we guarantee a system of education in which each students who enters high school graduates with the skills necessary to succeed in college and in the workforce.”

-MBAE Commission on Educating a 21st Century Workforce

Educating a 21st Century Workforce: A Call to Action on High School Reform

Linda M. Noonan

617-737-3122

LNoonan@mbae.org

www.mbae.org



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