



A Wave of Action

Dear Friends,

During this Presidential Election year, when many of us are looking to the future and change, it has been striking how little talk there has been about education and the needs of our next generation of leaders and citizens. This is a pressing concern in Massachusetts, as articulated in the MA Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time report, [Our Common Wealth: Building a Future for our Common Youth](#), "if we can ensure that Massachusetts' children and youth have access to the experiences, opportunities and supports that research and practice has proven is needed for them to be productive and engaged members of our society, our Commonwealth will survive and flourish. If we ignore or refuse this obligation, we risk our own future prosperity and security."

In the [Guest Column](#) on our website and in their report, Senator Thomas McGee and Representative Marie St. Fleur, Co-Chairs of the Special Commission share what they learned through a series of hearings throughout the state where educators, parents, youth, children and many out-of-school time providers testified about the increasing importance of OST programs at a time when those very programs lack the resources to meet the need or, worse, are losing funding. To reverse this decline, we must work together and tear down the traditional boundaries between systems. Jeffrey Nellhaus, Acting Education Commissioner, in our [Featured Donor](#) piece "calls for us to think about public education differently, and to consider ways to better integrate early childhood education, human and social services, longer school days and before- and after-school programming in the larger picture." He also talks about how the MA Department of Education has increased its ASOST Quality Grant budget to meet the needs of providers.

The work of the Commission and DOE are promising but must be viewed as just a beginning. As you read this newsletter, consider what more needs to happen. What do we need to do to spark momentum into a wave of action at the local, state, and national levels?

Thank you for reading,
Boston Beyond

Guest Column

➔ [Co-Chairs of the Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time share their thoughts on the hearings and research conducted across the state.](#)

By Senator Thomas McGee and Representative Marie St. Fleur

New Additions on this Topic to our Online Research Library

➔ [Our Common Wealth: Building a Future for Our Children and Youth](#)

A Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time Report

Youth Development Strategies, Inc. and the Institute for Research and Reform in Education

This report identifies what matters to youth and how

FEATURED DONOR

➔ [How the DOE is responding...](#)

After meeting with members of the Special Commission on AS & OST, the Department of Education is increasing their FY09 expansion budget request by \$12 million for the state's ASOST Quality Grant.

IN THE NEWS

➔ [inspire4life](#)

UWMB has launched a new website specifically to encourage all to "join together to give all youth options for a successful future".

FEATURED JOB

➔ [Executive Director, Youth Enrichment Services, Inc.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

➔ [Babson Charitable Foundation](#)
February 28, 2008

EVENTS/TRAININGS

➔ [Marketing Communications for Non Profit Organizations](#)

March 3 & 10th from 7-9:30 pm,
Lesley University

conditions can be improved to address these matters. The authors define “good youth development settings” and go on to describe how youth benefit from being in these settings. November 2002

Harvard Family Research Project

This issue of The Evaluation Exchange offers thoughts from experts in the field of out-of-school time on the most important aspects of ensuring quality programming. Key suggestions from eight leading experts are presented. Spring 2004

➔ **The Realm of Afterschool...A World of Diversity**

Priscilla Little

This issue brief prepared for the Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time, provides a description of after school and how students benefit from participating. The author highlights research on benefits in the areas of academics, social/emotional needs, prevention, health and wellness, and community engagement. Fall 2007

89 South Street, Suite 601, Boston, MA 02111 t 617.345.5322 f 617.812.4693