



# Massachusetts School Building Authority

**Timothy P. Cahill**  
*Chairman, State Treasurer*

**Katherine P. Craven**  
*Executive Director*

## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors, Massachusetts School Building Authority  
From: Katherine Craven, Executive Director  
Date: July 21, 2009  
Subject: Vocational, Technical and Agricultural School Renew and Repair Program

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### Summary

The MSBA Vocational Renew and Repair Program will commit a \$100M to upgrade and repair vocational technical high schools across the Commonwealth who have submitted Statements of Interest (SOIs) to the MSBA. This funding is in addition to the nearly \$200M the MSBA has committed over the past 2 years for vocational and technical school projects.

This investment of \$300M in vocational renewal funds is the largest infusion of funds for vocational schools in 30 years.

This program seeks to leverage local and private business dollars to literally keep strong foundations in place for this key component of the Massachusetts economy where our residents are trained for future jobs.

### Background

Most vocational schools in Massachusetts have aging facilities, and the last comprehensive investment in these facilities was in the 1960's. In order to keep these buildings in service, a comprehensive approach must be undertaken.

The MSBA program seeks to reward the proven excellence of the vocational schools:

- MCAS scores for the 26 regional vocational and technical schools jumped by 40 percent between 2001 and 2008.
- In 2007, vocational and technical student pass rates were above state averages in both English and math.
- Every vocational and technical teacher now holds an academic license in his or her field of instruction.
- Many of the schools offer Advanced Placement courses.
- The dropout rate at vocational and technical schools is now less than half the statewide average.
- Vocational and technical schools are effective in educating special education students, who make up 24 percent of the voc-tech student body, compared to 17 percent of public school students statewide. Their graduation rate is nearly 20 percentage points higher than the state special education graduation rate.
- Vocational and technical enrollment is up 15 percent over the last decade, even as statewide enrollment has fallen.
  - More than 2,800 students are now on voc-tech and agricultural school waiting lists.



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- Vocational and technical facilities funding provides an added educational benefit, since the students themselves can often work on building repairs or upgrades.
- The success of the Commonwealth's vocational and technical schools can also be attributed to the strong relationships they have built with the business community.
  - Each program of study within a school has a committee of industry professionals who advise teachers on the skills that would be most marketable for their students. A Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education survey found that employers believe voc-tech grads are more job ready than other high school graduates. Many said they were even more job-ready than college graduates.
- The combination of academic success and close employer ties has resulted in businesses making substantial investments in Massachusetts vocational and technical schools.
  - Ford gave more than \$1 million in diagnostic equipment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocational-Technical School. Companies like Intel and local hospitals regularly donate state-of-the-art equipment.

## **Renew and Repair Program**

To date, the MSBA has received 16 SOI from regional vocational technical school districts and agricultural schools - 12 in FY 2008 and 4 in FY 2009.

The MSBA has completed Senior Studies on all of the pending SOIs from regional vocational and technical and agricultural high schools.

The MSBA Board has already voted to approve 6 projects that are currently in the some stage of a project in the capital pipeline with a cumulative estimated contribution by the MSBA of approximately \$200M.

- Already paid \$620,000 for the Blue Hills Regional Voc / Tech HS roof repair
- Committed \$77.5M for a new Essex Aggie/NorthShore Voc Tech merger school
- Already paid \$2.2M for the Shawsheen Valley Voc/Tech HS Roof repair
- Committed \$3M estimated for the roof at South Shore Voc/Tech HS
- Committed \$2.5M estimated for the Whittier Reg Voc HS - Repair Category
- Committed \$112.5M for the Putnam Vocational School in Springfield

The MSBA Vocational Renew and Repair Program will provide \$100M for improvements vocational technical or agricultural schools that have pending SOIs with the MSBA. These schools are:

- Assabet Valley Voc HS - roof, hvac
- Bay Path Regional Voc/Tech HS - major reno
- Gr Lowell Regional Voc/Tech HS - general upgrades
- Minuteman Reg HS - addition/renovation
- Norfolk County Agr HS - repair, additional class space, some reno



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- Northeast Metro Reg Voc HS – would like a new school (but lack local support for basic operating budget, much less new school)
- Old Colony Regional Voc/Tech HS - repairs
- Smith Vocational and Agricultural HS - new science/ag building
- Southeastern Regional Voc/Tech HS - repairs/ upgrades

In addition, MSBA has been auditing and paying off vocational schools approved by the DOE prior to the creation of the MSBA in Worcester (2005), Greater Lawrence Regional Voc Tech (2003), Blackstone Valley Voc Tech (2005), Lynn Vocational & Technical Institute (1998), Chicopee Comprehensive HS (2002), Nashoba (2000), Montachusett Voc Tech (2000), Springfield HS for Science and Technology (1998).

## Vocational Technical and Agricultural Schools

District Name		Grades Served	Base Rate - No Incentives	District Request	Project Budget	MSBA Grant
<b>Vocs in the Current MSBA Pipeline</b>						
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	Blue Hills Voc PS	09 - 12	57.06%	Roof Repair	1,169,062	620,304
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	Essex Agr Tech PS	09 - 12	62.00%	New Combined Voc / Ag School	125,000,000	\$ 77,500,000
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	North Shore Reg Voc PS	09 - 12		New Combined Voc / Ag School	-	
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	Shawsheen Valley Voc Tech PS	09 - 12	51.58%	Roof and Systems Repairs	4,113,048	\$ 2,162,641
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	Springfield PS	09 - 12	90.00%	New School	125,000,000	\$ 112,500,000
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	South Shore Reg Voc Tech PS	09 - 12	52.06%	Potential Roof and Window Repair	3,100,000	\$ 1,613,860
In MSBA Capital Pipeline	Whittier Voc PS	09 - 12	66.18%	Potential Roof Repair	2,500,000	\$ 1,654,500
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>260,882,110</b>	<b>196,051,305</b>
<b>Pending SOIs from Voc Districts</b>						
Filed SOI	Assabet Valley PS	09 - 12	53.48%	Potential Roof & HVAC Repair		
Filed SOI	Greater Lowell Voc Tec PS	09 - 12	76.84%	Potential Roof & HVAC Repair		
Filed SOI	Minuteman Voc Tech PS	09 - 12	39.00%	Limited Addition / Renovation		
Filed SOI	Norfolk County Agr PS	09 - 12	49.94%	Limited Addition / Renovation		
Filed SOI	Northampton-Smith PS	09 - 12	74.11%	Limited Addition / Renovation		
Filed SOI	Northeast Metro Voc PS	09 - 12	71.79%	District wants New School		
Filed SOI	Old Colony Reg Voc Tech PS	09 - 12	54.16%	Classroom / System Upgrades		
Filed SOI	Southeastern Reg Voc Tech PS	09 - 12	75.37%	Systems/ Roof Repair		
Filed SOI	Baypath - Southern Worcester Cty	09 - 12	76.84%	Renovation		