



A Plan to Improve the Teaching of Mathematics and Science in Pre-School to Grade Three

Dear Friends:

In a front-page story last week, the *Boston Globe* reported that "nearly three-quarters of the aspiring elementary school teachers who took the state's licensing exam this year failed the new math section. Education leaders said the high failure rate reflects what they feared, that too many elementary classroom and special education teachers do not have a strong background in math and are in many ways responsible for poor student achievement in the subject."

In a subsequent op-ed on May 21, Solomon Friedberg cautioned, "The nation is not producing enough well-qualified teachers of math and science. And too many of the ones it does produce are leaving the classroom after a few years. We cannot continue to lead in math and science without substantial and immediate changes nationwide."

Anticipating this need, the Aspire Institute of Wheelock College convened several local teacher preparation programs in April to explore how to improve Massachusetts teachers' knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Sponsored by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, this working group, known as the Higher Education STEM Partnership is developing a plan to strengthen STEM preparation for pre-K through third-grade teachers.

To learn more about the Higher Education STEM Partnership and to view their preliminary position statement, please visit [Wheelock's news site](#).

The Higher Education STEM Partnership will meet this fall to develop working guidelines and chart a course of action for implementing their recommendations. We will keep you informed of our progress and provide you with details and updates as we continue our work.

Sincerely,

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Source

"Aspiring teachers fall short on math." *Boston Globe*. May 19, 2009.
"The crisis in math, science." *Boston Globe*. May 21, 2009.