



STEM Summit V: *Implementing the Plan*

Preparing Massachusetts students for careers in
science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Educating a 21st Century Workforce
A Call for Action on High School Reform, *October 2008*
Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education

Massachusetts needs a multidimensional strategy that effectively replaces our current outdated approach to education with one that can sustain our knowledge-based economy

Three critical **challenges** that we have to address:

- Increase Awareness of 21st Century Demands.
- Prepare ALL Students for College, Career, and Citizenship.
- Close the Persistent Achievement Gap.

Strategies:

Reform the Fundamental High School Model

- Career counseling and guidance support early and throughout their educational experience
- Increased instructional time and flexible alternatives to a four-year high school schedule
- Increased access to dual enrollment programs

Align Curriculum with the Demands of College and Career

- Implement the MassCore course of study statewide as the minimum requirement for a diploma.
- Include skills that are essential in the 21st century across the curriculum.
- Provide opportunities for work-based or service learning activities.

Ensure Assessments Measure Relevant Skills and Content Mastery

- Exit assessments that measure college and career readiness with statewide end-of-course assessment system.

Create a System of Partnerships to Support and Sustain Reforms

- Formalize regional School-Business Partnership Programs.
- Establish long-term and meaningful partnerships between schools and businesses at the local level.
- Provide elective credit for work-based or service learning of work ethic and professionalism and communication and interpersonal skills—

For the full report go to:

<http://www.mbae.org/news/newsdetails.asp?catid=1&newsid=61>