



Parents Alliance for Catholic Education

PACE

Media Release

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Massachusetts Catholic Schools to Receive \$4 Million Over Six Years in Federal *Reading First* Grants

Boston – The Parents Alliance for Catholic Education (PACE) announced the award of over \$4 million in federal money over the next six years to assist Massachusetts Catholic schools in ensuring that disadvantaged students are reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

The funds have been made available through the federal *Reading First* program, established under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and administered in the Commonwealth by the Massachusetts Department of Education (MADOE). In making awards, MADOE has given priority to public school districts and non-public schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students who need improvement in reading. The funding is available to public and non-public schools, including Catholic schools.

“Working cooperatively with their local public school districts, Catholic schools will be able to access instructional materials, education technology, and specialized teacher training – all of which will greatly enhance the reading outcomes for our eligible students,” said Steve Perla, Executive Director for PACE.

At the behest of PACE, MADOE agreed to set aside an annual amount of *Reading First* funding for all eligible non-public schools. This new system essentially creates two funding streams in each district, one for public schools and one for eligible non-public schools. This unprecedented arrangement makes it easier for Catholic and other non-public schools to access and best utilize the federal funds to which they are entitled under law.

Through the *Reading First* program and the set-aside arrangement established with MADOE, Catholic schools are now better able to address the individual learning needs of their most vulnerable youngsters.

(more)

Thirty two Catholic schools and nine additional private schools will be served by this program during the 2003-04 school year. Recipients will have the potential for an additional four years of funding – based on reading progress in the public school district.

“The additional \$150-\$200 in *Reading First* money per K-3 student will make a critical difference in the ability of our schools to help struggling readers become confident, proficient ones,” Mr. Perla added.

Below is a list of the Catholic schools being served by the first distribution of *Reading First* funding and their student enrollment for grades K-3:

CITY	SCHOOL	K-3 ENROLLMENT
Chelsea	St Rose Elementary	148
Chicopee	Holy Name	95
Fall River	Holy Trinity	93
Fall River	Espirito Santo	113
Fall River	Notre Dame	68
Fall River	St Anne	154
Lawrence	Sacred Heart Elementary	69
Lawrence	St Augustine Elementary	89
Lawrence	Holy Trinity Elementary	96
Lawrence	St Mary/Immaculate Conception	119
Lawrence	St Patrick Elementary	184
Malden	Cheverus Elementary	164
Salem	St. Joseph	89
Somerville	St. Anthony	94
Somerville	St. Benedict	54
Somerville	St Catherine Of Genoa	83
Springfield	Mount Carmel	60
Springfield	St Matthew	63
Springfield	Holy Name	91
Springfield	Our Lady of Hope	175
Springfield	Our Lady of Sacred Heart	170
Westfield	Holy Trinity	60
Worcester	St Peter Central Catholic	170
Brockton	St Casimir Elementary	96
Brockton	St Edward Elementary	106
Brockton	Sacred Heart Elementary	118
Cambridge	St Peter Elementary	103
Lowell	St Stanislaus Elementary	56
Lowell	St Patrick Elementary	63
Lowell	Sacred Heart Elementary	86
Lowell	St Margaret Elementary	160
Taunton	Our Lady Of Lourdes	130

PACE is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to serving Catholic Schools in Massachusetts in the public policy arena.

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