*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals, Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Coordinators, Instructional Technology Directors/Coordinators, Teachers, and Other Interested Parties

From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: April 28, 2014

Subject: Soliciting applications for the development of the *Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards* panel*.* Application due date: Friday, May 16, 2014

During 2013, the Department entered discussions with the Massachusetts Computing Attainment Network, (MassCAN, <http://masscan.edc.org/>), which has been advocating for computer science education in Massachusetts schools. We also formed an internal group within the Department to consider the role of computer science education in the K-12 curriculum.

These discussions have led to a vision of expanded computing education opportunities for all students. To realize this vision, the Department will be collaborating with MassCAN on the development of voluntary Computer Science Standards for Massachusetts schools. The panel will review existing computer science standards such as those produced by the Computer Science Teachers of America as a starting point for the development of Massachusetts standards. The current *Technology Literacy* standards will be analyzed and updated to produce *Digital Literacy* standards. A decision will be made whether to fold these *Digital Literacy* standards into a single document with computer science (*Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards*), or to produce two separate documents. The standards development panel will present draft standards to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in winter 2014-15.

Panel Application

The Department is now soliciting **applications** for the *Digital Literacy and Computer Science* *Standards* panel. (Application attached.) We anticipate selecting 30-35 panel members.

The Department is seeking wide representation on the Panel, including:

* educators who teach computer science or digital literacy in elementary, middle, and secondary schools; higher education or education faculty who teach college level computer science or digital literacy-related courses;
* educators of students with disabilities and English language learners;
* educators who have incorporated computer science in mathematics, literacy, history, economics, arts, comprehensive health, or vocational/technical courses;
* district and school administrators, including superintendents, principals, and curriculum coordinators;
* community members, including parents, students, school committee members, librarians, and educators from informal and other educational institutions or agencies who help support students to improve their computer science knowledge and/or digital literacy skills;
* business personnel with experience in hiring and training employees in computer science and related fields ; and
* researchers in the fields of computer science and digital literacy.

Applications **must be** submitted by Friday, May 16, 2014. School district personnel should confirm administrative support before applying. The review panel will meet approximately 10 days from June 2014 through May 2015 with no more than 5 meetings occurring during the school day. Due to the importance of this work we will set up a schedule that will allow for the greatest participation from all selected panelists. Meetings will be held at EDC in Waltham which has facilities for full virtual participation. Participants will be awarded professional development points, stipends for summer work, and reimbursement for substitutes and travel. Applicants selected for appointment to the panel will be notified late May 2014 and the kick-off meeting will take place on June 23, 2014 at EDC in Waltham.

Proposed Timeline

This is an accelerated standards development process that is expected to take approximately one year. We anticipate presenting a first draft of the standards to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for review in winter 2015.

If you have any questions about this Standards development panel, please email mathscitech@doe.mass.edu.

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## **Panelist Application for the development of**

***Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards.***

### Due date: Friday, May 16, 2014

**I. Applicant Information**

Name:

Position:

Work address:

School and District or Organization:

Street:

City: State: Zip:

Preferred contact information: Phone: email:

# II. School District Personnel

Please identify the name and title of your immediate supervisor

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Please have your immediate supervisor complete the Statement of Administrative support (Attached) and send the completed form with your application.

**III.** **Describe** your experiences and specialized expertise that are pertinent to thedevelopment of *Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards.* If you are an educator, please include license(s) you hold, subject(s) you currently teach, as well as other subjects you have taught in the past.

**IV. Please include a résumé.**

# V. Schedule

The *Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards* panel will be appointed in late May 2014 with a kick-off meeting on June 23, 2014. Additional meetings will be scheduled over the summer and during the next academic year. (No more than 5 school days.) Total commitment will likely be approximately 10 meetings, plus some additional sub-committee work. The Department will award professional development points and reimbursement for substitutes and travel, pending funding. We anticipate selecting 30-35 panel members.

**VI.** **Please e-mail** completed application by Friday, **May 16, 2014** to Anne DeMallie,

[ademallie@doe.mass.edu](mailto:ademallie@doe.mass.edu)

**Statement of Administrative Support**

I support the application of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to serve on the *Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards* panel.

I understand that the panel meetings may occur during the school day (up to 5 days) and that the district will be reimbursed for substitute costs and participant travel.

Supervisor’s Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Commitment Information

School district personnel should confirm administrative support before applying. The review panel will meet approximately 10 days from June 2014 through May 2015 with no more than 5 meetings occurring during the school day. Due to the importance of this work we will set up a schedule that will allow for the greatest participation from all selected panelists. Meetings will be held at EDC in Waltham which has facilities for full virtual participation. Participants will be awarded professional development points, stipends for summer work, and reimbursement for substitutes and travel. Applicants selected for appointment to the panel will be notified late May 2014 and the kick-off meeting will take place on June 23, 2014 at EDC in Waltham.