



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

December 22, 2011

Emily Hoffman
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
305 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

Dear Emily:

Thank you very much for being the mastermind and puppet master in the Poverty and Literacy Project initiated as a result of the report, *Child Poverty in Massachusetts: A Tale of Three Cities*, including your participation in a Brown Bag Lunch here at the Department on October 28.

I understand it was quite a challenge to come up with next steps after the report was launched and then, over time, coordinate with all the stakeholders who ultimately became involved. I found the work very impressive, particularly the enthusiasm of the classroom teachers, but no part of the project moved me more than hearing about the effects of the project on adult learners who were parents.

Kudos to you and your partners for developing a game plan and then taking it to the finish line. I have my fingers crossed that your work may take on a greater role in efforts to increase academic achievement in your community!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy".

Kathy Rodriguez

Cc: Anne Serino