

Boston Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent



April 7, 2014

Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner Chester,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary turnaround plan for the Holland Elementary School. Boston Public Schools recognizes that the Holland did not make the necessary academic gains during its three-year turnaround period. The district takes collective responsibility for this, as it is our responsibility to ensure that every student, in every school, receives a quality education to help realize his or her fullest potential.

Boston Public Schools will work with UP Education Network to support the success of all students at the Holland as we do with all our students, regardless of school governance structure or oversight. We look forward to codifying the relationship, including roles and responsibilities, between the Commonwealth, the receiver, and Boston Public Schools through a memorandum of agreement in the coming weeks. Most importantly, we believe it is critical to establish clear criteria and a timeframe for exiting Level 5 status as quickly as possible to ensure a smooth and speedy transition of the Holland Elementary School back to the Boston Public Schools.

I respectfully request that the Commonwealth and UP Education Network work collaboratively with the LSG and school community for a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

Signed by John P. McDonough

John P. McDonough
Interim Superintendent