



COMMONWEALTH READINESS PROJECT

A report by Heidi Kaufman, Director of Educational Programs, MetroWest YMCA

In June, Governor Deval Patrick published his administration's action agenda for education. "[Ready for 21st Century Success - The New Promise of Public Education](#)," shares the vision, rationale and recommendations for the next ten years of education reform. This action agenda was created as part of a year long effort by the [Readiness Project](#), where about 200 education, community, and business leaders worked together to create the strategic plan for Massachusetts.

As a member of Commonwealth Readiness Project's subcommittee on Early Education and Care, I was pleased to see the emphasis placed on supporting high quality early childhood education as well as making the connection between high quality programs and well trained educators. The Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) quality grant program through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care requires a teacher in each classroom to have a Bachelor's degree. With additional resources, we hope to expand our current UPK award dedicated to our Framingham Branch Early Childhood Center to support our Center at our Hopkinton Branch and the new Center at Framingham State. As a result, we will need to continue to hire lead teachers with Bachelor's Degrees and support current educators as they return to school to complete their Bachelor's.

One of the benefits we see to our new partnership at Framingham State College is that we will be able to work together in supporting the growth and development of both young children and early childhood educators at multiple levels of education and experience.

[>Click here for Governor Patrick's press release outlining additional recommendations.](#)

[>Click here to read about the Governor's plan to create an Education Finance Commission.](#)

[>- Click here for the Readiness subcommittee final reports](#)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to see the center recently, the building is definitely the site of an active construction zone. The interior and exterior demolition is completed and site work will commence shortly. Paint colors, floor tiles, and counter tops have been selected and the playground equipment has been selected.

The building renovation is underway and on schedule!



REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!

Now accepting registrations from FSC Faculty, Staff, and students for September enrollment! Call (508) 879-4420 x66 or email info@metrowestymca.org for more information. Download the brochure, the registration form, and rate sheet online at the FSC Portal.