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## **Mass Insight Education selected by the Department of Education to expand enrollment and performance of underserved students in AP classes**

BOSTON — Sept. 22 — Mass Insight Education (MIE), a Boston nonprofit dedicated to improving public school performance and closing the achievement gap, has received a new state contract to expand Advanced Placement (AP) courses in STEM and English in Massachusetts schools. MIE's new funding, administered through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), will extend through the 2018-2019 school year, building on MIE's eight-year track record of supporting rigorous college-level curriculum for high school students. The program, included in the FY18 state budget, was funded at \$2.592 million.

Since MIE began its AP STEM and English program, it has reached over 23,000 students throughout high schools in Massachusetts. The program helps expand or jump start AP classes at high schools looking to provide more opportunity for students. The net result has been higher academic achievement and better preparedness for college, sometimes at high schools that previously had small AP programs, says Dr. Susan F. Lusi, president and CEO of MIE.

"The support of ESE is absolutely essential to our mission of bringing academic opportunity to more students while closing the achievement gap," said Lusi. "When presented with challenging material by great teachers, students respond. That's true in every school district in the Commonwealth."

"Mass Insight Education has been a valuable partner in helping underserved students enroll in and succeed in science, technology, engineering, math and English Advanced Placement courses, which help prepare students for college," said Jeff Wulfson, acting commissioner of elementary and secondary education.

MIE will partner with 73 high schools across Massachusetts to support the expansion of AP STEM and English classes, while increasing the enrollment and qualifying scores of historically underserved students. AP courses offer entry-level

college coursework to high school students to prepare them for success throughout their college experience. At the conclusion of the course, students are tested on their knowledge of the subject area and are given a score ranging from 1-5. Typically, scores of 3, 4 or 5 are awarded college credit, but simply enrolling in AP courses makes students more favorable to colleges looking for students with academic rigor and experience.

***About Mass Insight Education***

Founded in Boston in 1997, Mass Insight Education (MIE) is a national nonprofit at the forefront of education reform. It is dedicated to improving student achievement and increasing college success through bold district restructuring and rigorous academic programs. To close the achievement gap and prepare the leaders of tomorrow, MIE inspires students to go to college, and gives them the academic tools and training they need to thrive and earn a degree. For more information, visit [www.massinsight.org](http://www.massinsight.org).

***About Elementary and Secondary Education***

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education oversees the Commonwealth's K-12 education system and adult basic education, including school finance and district support, student assessment, curriculum and instruction, educator preparation and licensure, charter schools, vocational-technical education, English language learner programs, student support services, and special education.