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ALERT

THE VOICE OF
ADULT EDUCATION
IN MASSACHUSETTS

Alert #7 - FY2012

March 12, 2012

ALERT SUMMARY:

- 1. PURVIEW: State (not federal)**
- 2. LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Adult learners**
- 3. WHO IS BEING CONTACTED: State representatives and state senators**
- 4. TIME LINE: Immediate, legislators are working on the FY2013 budget now!**

STATEWIDE ABE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN:

Dear ABE Practitioner:

MCAE is rolling out a statewide postcard campaign for the FY2013 budget season. The post cards are a way for us to send a coordinated message to the State House, and it is a useful tool for introducing students to doing advocacy work.

The postcard thanks legislators and asks them to support an allocation of \$30.7 million for the ABE line item 7035-0002.

Teachers should give the postcards to their students now and ask students to send both of them as soon as possible: one to their state representative and one to their state senator. Below you will find instructions on how to participate.

Thanks for your participation!

Jennifer McAllister

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Email Jennifer McAllister at jmcallister@mcae.net to request a postcard

NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 13, 2012

10 a.m. to 12 noon

UMass/Boston

100 Morrissey Blvd Healey
Library

Media Conference Room
Lower Level

via videoconference:

**Picknelly Education Center,
Holyoke, MA**

contact gkohout@hcc.edu for
exact room location

template. Copy postcard template on card stock and cut. You can also send on plain paper as a letter.

2. Give your students 2 postcards to send to the State House in Boston. One card is for their state representative and one is for their state senator.
3. Explain to them where the money for classes comes from, and why it is important to send the postcards to legislators.

FINDING OUT WHO IS THE STUDENT'S STATE REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR:

Go to www.wheredoivotema.com to complete a simple address query screen.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

1. A student does not have to be a citizen or registered voter to send the postcard. Legislators represent everyone who lives in their district whether or not they are citizen. Everyone who lives in the district is a constituent.
2. Make sure students sign the card and write their full address on it. The postcards will only be effective if elected officials see that the student comes from their district.
3. Have 32-cent stamps available for students to buy. Do not use public funds to pay for the stamps.
4. It is inappropriate to pressure any student to send a postcard. This campaign is voluntary and is designed to make it easier for students to contact their legislators. No one should feel forced to send a postcard.

REPORT BACK:

As always, it is essential for MCAE to know how many postcards have been sent to each legislator. This information helps us to plan which legislators need to receive more contact from MCAE.

Report back after your students have mailed their postcards. Report by email to jmcallister@mcae.net and briefly let MCAE know:

1. How many postcards were mailed, totaled by individual legislator (state representatives, state senators).
2. Any problems you encountered and suggestions you may have.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer McAllister from MCAE with any questions or concerns at 617-482-6223.

MORE INFORMATION:

- For questions on this alert contact Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com or 617-367-1313), Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617-287-4071), or Jennifer McAllister (jmcallister@mcae.net or 508-208-0130).

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN!!

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