***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

**INTRODUCTION 2**

**BACKGROUND 2**

1. **THE *McDUFFY* DECISION 2**
2. **THE PRESENT PROCEEDINGS 6**
3. **THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT:** **8  
   SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES**

1. **School Finance** **9**
2. **Responsibilities of the Commissioner 11  
   and Board of Education**
3. **Teachers 13**

**FINDINGS OF FACT 16**

1. **THE COMMONWEALTH’S IMPLEMENTATION 16  
   OF EDUCATION REFORM SINCE 1993**
2. **The Commonwealth’s Increased Financial 16  
   Contributions to Local School Districts**
3. **Development of the Curriculum Frameworks 17**
4. **Development of MCAS 17**
5. **Teachers 19**
6. **The Accountability System** **20**
7. **School Accountability System** **22**
8. **District Accountability System** **26**
9. **Some Highlights of Education Reform Since 1993 28**
10. **Greater Equalization of Funding** **28**
11. **MCAS** **30**
12. **NAEP** **30**
13. **THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS 33  
    IN THE FOUR FOCUS DISTRICTS**
14. **Introduction: The Applicable Standards** **33**
15. ***McDuffy’s* Guidelines and Seven Capabilities 33**
16. **The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks** **33**
17. **English Language Arts 35**
18. **Mathematics** **36**
19. **Science 38**
20. **History/Social Science** **38**
21. **The Arts** **39**
22. **Health** **40**
23. **Libraries** **41**
24. **Summary of Findings and Conclusions 43  
    About the Four Focus Districts**
25. **The Brockton School District 43**
26. **The Lowell School District** **47**
27. **The Springfield School District 52**
28. **The Winchendon School District** **61**
29. **The Brockton School District: Specific Findings 71**
30. **Demographic Information 72**
31. **School Funding 73**
32. **Preschool Program 75**
33. **Elementary Schools 76**
34. **Junior High Schools 77**
35. **Brockton High School 77**
36. **English/Literacy Program 78**
37. **Math Program 79**
38. **MCAS Remediation** **81**
39. **History Program 82**
40. **Science Program** **83**
41. **Arts Program** **84**
42. **Health/Physical Education** **85**
43. **Foreign Language Program 86**
44. **Libraries** **86**
45. **Technology** **88**
46. **Special Education** **89**
47. **Bilingual Education 93**
48. **Professional Development** **95**
49. **Teachers and Teacher Opening 97**
50. **School Buildings in Brockton 98**
51. **Brockton’s MCAS Results 99**
52. **Brockton’s SAT Scores 106**
53. **The Lowell School District: Specific Findings 107**
54. **Demographic Information 107**
55. **School Funding 108**
56. **Preschool Program 111**
57. **Kindergarten Program 113**
58. **Elementary Schools 114**
59. **Middle Schools 117**
60. **Lowell High School 120**
61. **English/Literacy Program 120**
62. **Mathematics Program 122**
63. **MCAS Remediation in ELA and Math 124**
64. **History Program 125**
65. **Science Program 126**
66. **Fine Arts Program 127**
67. **Health/Physical Education 128**
68. **Foreign Language Program 129**
69. **Libraries and Technology 129**
70. **Special Education 131**
71. **Professional Development 135**
72. **Teachers 137**
73. **School Buildings 137**
74. **Dropouts 137**
75. **Lowell’s MCAS Results 138**
76. **Lowell’s SAT Scores 146**
77. **Springfield School District: Specific Findings 146**
78. **Demographic Information 147**
79. **School Funding 147**
80. **Preschool Program 150**
81. **Kindergarten Program 151**
82. **Elementary Schools 152**
83. **Middle Schools 156**
84. **English/Literacy Program** **159**
85. **Mathematics Program** **161**
86. **History** **Program** **163**
87. **Science Program 165**
88. **Arts** **Program 168**
89. **Health and Physical Education 170**
90. **Libraries 171**
91. **Technology 172**
92. **Vocational Education 173**
93. **Academic Program 173**
94. **Vocational Program 176**
95. **Special Education 178**
96. **Teachers and Teacher Openings 183**
97. **Professional Development 184**
98. **School Buildings in Springfield 186**
99. **Dropouts 187**
100. **Springfield’s MCAS Results 188**
101. **Springfield’s SAT Scores 196**
102. **The Winchendon School District: Specific Findings 197**
103. **Demographic Information** **197**
104. **School Funding** **198**
105. **Preschool Program 201**
106. **Elementary Schools 202**
107. **Title I Program 207**
108. **Middle and High School 209**
109. **Technology 214**
110. **Arts Program 216**
111. **Athletics Program 217**
112. **Special Education 218**
113. **Professional Development 221**
114. **Teachers and Professional Staff 221**
115. **Dropouts 223**
116. **Winchendon’s MCAS Results** **224**
117. **Winchendon’s SAT Scores 232**
118. **Winchendon School District Examination by 230  
     the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability**
119. **Conclusion 235**
120. **THE FOCUS DISTRICTS AND THE “COMPARISON” DISTRICTS 236**
121. **Introduction 236**
122. **Measures of Educational Performance 236**
123. **MCAS Scores 236**
124. **Cycle Performance Ratings 240**
125. **Dropout Rates 242**
126. **Graduation Rates 245**
127. **SAT Scores and Participation 247**
128. **Post-Graduation Plans of High School Seniors 248**
129. **Conclusion 249**
130. **COMMON PROBLEMS OF THE FOCUS DISTRICTS 251**
131. **Funding 251**
132. **Introduction 251**
133. **Models to Evaluate Funding Adequacy 252**
134. **Successful Schools Model 252**
135. **Professional Judgment Model 255**

**Dr. Verstegen’s Study 255**

**Dr. Smith’s Study 257**

1. **Comparison of Net School Spending 259  
   and Foundation Budget**
2. **Value Added Analysis 264**
3. **Problems With Existing Foundation Budget Formula 267**
4. **Special Education 268**
5. **Curriculum Frameworks 268**
6. **Teachers 270**
7. **Bilingual Education/Limited English Proficiency 271**
8. **Foundation Budget Review Commission** **272  
   Determinations**
9. **Other Changes to the Formula** **274**
10. **Reductions in State Funding 275**
11. **Conclusion 276**
12. **Special Education 277**
13. **Areas of Concern 277**
14. **MCAS Gap Between Regular and 278  
    Special Education Students**
15. **Per-Pupil Spending on Special Education 282**
16. **The Special Education Component of Foundation Budget 283**
17. **Attracting Qualified Teachers 288**
18. **Facilities 292**
19. **REMEDIAL ISSUES 294**
20. **Early Childhood Education 294**
    * + 1. **Introduction 294**
        2. **The Value of Early Childhood Education 295**
        3. **Components of a Quality Preschool Program 298**
        4. **Public vs. Community-Based Private Preschool Programs 299**
        5. **Statewide Efforts to Provide Quality Early Childhood 302  
           Education**
        6. **Preschool in the Focus Districts** **304**
21. **Class Size Reduction 307**
22. **Benefits of Small Class Size in the Early Grades 307**
23. **Class Size in the Focus Districts** **310**
24. **Remediation Programs 311**

**FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 313**

**APPENDIX A: NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 A-1**

**APPENDIX B: THE MASSACHUSETTS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS B-1**