

**Acton Public Schools  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School District  
Office of Development**

TO: Bill Ryan, Superintendent of Schools  
FROM: Vanessa Banyas  
RE: Acton Parent Involvement Program (PIP)  
DATE: June 17, 2002  
CC: Jonathan Landman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

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Dear Bill,

Our Acton PIP Coalition was established in September 2000 with funding through the National Science Foundation and MA Department of Education. We were most fortunate to receive a second year of funding, and have worked to increase our volunteerism and efforts for the benefit of our students, parents and community.

I am pleased to share with you an announcement regarding our Coalition. On May 29, 2002, our Coalition was recognized for its efforts to:

- ✍ create parent leadership;
- ✍ reach out to the community's underrepresented (hard-to-reach parents and/or those with language barriers) and engage them in activities and events relevant to their child's education;
- ✍ create innovative and educational activities for parents and their children to engage in together; and
- ✍ form partnerships within the community and with businesses.

Through this recognition, Acton PIP received an *Award of Appreciation*, "for your outstanding work, commitment and support of Parent Involvement in Math, Science, Technology and Engineering Education." Specific activities included the establishment of an afterschool International Club that provided academic and homework assistance, as well as support with cultural issues for understanding. We also used our second year of funding to expand translation and dissemination of our math and science kits that were developed last year. These kits were made available through our public library over the 2001 summer. Now they are available at each individual school, and can also be found at Emerson Hospital for patient use.

This award was presented to our Coalition's coordinators and parent community liaisons, Ms. Debbie Clough and Ms. Karen Herther, at the annual Mass PIP Showcase. Commissioner Driscoll was also present, and addressed MA coalition members in recognition of their efforts.

We are greatly pleased to be the recipients of this award, and are most proud of our accomplishments over the past two years. However, we fully wish to recognize the many parents, community members, teachers, school PTO's and local area businesses and agencies that have contributed to the success of our events and endeavors.

Although this is the last year of grant funding, we feel confident that our efforts have worked to create sustainable partnerships and volunteer interest, and look forward to continuing activities and initiatives next year.