



Massachusetts School Building Authority

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TREASURER CAHILL PRESENTS \$113 MILLION CHECK TO FALL RIVER FOR FOUR NEW SCHOOLS *Accelerated Payments Saved Taxpayers \$48 Million*

BOSTON, MA – State Treasurer Tim Cahill, Chairman of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), and Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director, were in Fall River today to present the city with a check for \$113,402,487 for the construction of the Fonseca, LeTourneau and Viveiros Elementary Schools and the Kuss Middle School. The check represents the total MSBA grants given to Fall River for the four new schools plus two low-interest loans.

The schools were reimbursed under the MSBA’s Pro-Pay system where communities are reimbursed monthly as school construction costs are incurred. These timely payments prevented Fall River from having to issue debt to finance the MSBA’s share of project costs, saving Fall River taxpayers approximately \$48 million in avoided local interest costs. Fall River also participated in the MSBA’s school construction loan program. Two loans totaling \$6.9 million enabled the city to jumpstart the construction of Viveiros and Fonseca Elementary Schools.

“I am pleased to present this check for four new schools in Fall River,” Treasurer Cahill said. “The MSBA’s ‘pay-as-you-build’ reimbursement system saved Fall River approximately \$48 million in avoided local interest costs. That’s a savings of \$2,300 for each Fall River taxpayer, and that can be a tremendous help in these tough economic times.”

“This money has gone a long way toward improving the teaching and learning environment for Fall River students and faculty in a cost-effective way,” said Katherine Craven, MSBA Executive Director.

The MSBA is collaborating with municipalities to equitably invest \$2.5 billion in schools across the Commonwealth by finding the right-sized, most fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solutions to create safe and sound learning environments. The MSBA is committed to protecting the taxpayer’s dollar by improving the school building grant process and avoiding the mistakes of the past in the funding and construction of school facilities. The MSBA has reformed the Commonwealth’s formerly rampant and unsustainable program, which had accumulated \$11 billion in debt.

To date, the MSBA has made approximately \$6.5 billion in reimbursements to cities, towns and regional school districts for school construction and renovation projects. These timely payments have saved municipalities over \$2.9 billion in avoided local interest costs and have provided much needed cash flow to municipalities in these difficult economic times.

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