

# Holbrook Public Schools

245 South Franklin Street  
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## Press Release

Holbrook, MA, February 3, 2012

### *Massachusetts School Building Authority Invites Holbrook into the Eligibility Period*

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board of Directors voted on January 25, 2012, to invite Holbrook JSHS into MSBA's "Eligibility Period". This is the first step of the grant process to give time and attention to pursue all viable options for Holbrook. Holbrook must successfully complete this Eligibility Period within 270 days in order to be eligible to receive an invitation to the next phase. Due to deteriorating building issues the District will work aggressively to move quickly to address the required issues. The Permanent School Building Committee will address all of these items and work towards meeting this new established deadline. Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta was pleased to get the notification, "I think direction and clarity of purpose are a must for Holbrook based on the various views that have been debated during the last two plus years. I think it makes sense to have a timetable."

Please see <http://www.massschoolbuildings.org> for detailed information about the Eligibility Period.

As posted on the MSBA website: Module 1 – Eligibility Period

To further maximize resources, the MSBA is formalizing and streamlining the beginning of its grant process with the establishment of an **Eligibility Period**, which will result in several benefits to the District and the MSBA. The **Eligibility Period** will assist the MSBA with managing its financial resources by identifying early in the process whether a District is ready to manage and fund a capital project. It will help to determine a District's financial and community readiness to enter the capital pipeline. It will also assist Districts locally by providing a definitive schedule and identifying needs for planning and budgeting.

A vote of the MSBA Board of Directors to invite a District into the **Eligibility Period** is based on a review of the District's Statement of Interest ("SOI") and staff due diligence and recommendation. The vote initiates a 270-day period for the District to complete certain preliminary requirements that include: 1) a certification of the District's understanding of the grant program rules by executing an Initial Compliance Certification; 2) forming a School Building Committee and submitting the membership to the MSBA for acceptance; 3) a summary of the District's funding capacities; 4) a summary of the District's existing maintenance practices; 5) certification of a design enrollment for the proposed project agreed upon with the MSBA (may not be applicable for Repair Assessments depending on the proposed scope of work); 6) confirmation of community authorization and funding to proceed (see MSBA Vote Requirements); and, 7) execution of the MSBA's standard Feasibility Study Agreement, which establishes a process for the District to be reimbursed for eligible expenses.