

# Memo

**To:** Melrose School Committee  
**From:** Joseph F. Casey, Superintendent  
**Date:** January 4, 2012  
**Re:** High School Science Labs

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I am writing to notify you that the district is applying to participate in the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Science Lab Initiative.

*In connection with the MSBA's new guidelines for science labs in high school facilities, the MSBA has launched a \$60 million Science Lab Initiative in order to further recognize the importance of these educational spaces. This innovative, competitive grant program represents a unique opportunity for districts to invest in otherwise-sound high school facilities by focusing capital spending on prototype designs for science labs. Districts may include major repair projects in their application to address roofs, windows, boilers and heating and ventilations systems as well.*

Districts that have deficiencies in their existing science labs that inhibit the delivery of the district's educational program can express interest in the MSBA's Science Lab Initiative through the SOI process.

I have been working closely with Denise Gaffey, our City Planner, Julie Shea, our Science Department Chair, as well as Greg Zammuto and Bob Ciampi to prepare a Statement of Interest (SOI) to apply for funding to support the installation of replacement science labs at Melrose High School and make major repairs to the heating and ventilation system.

If we are successful, the SBA would fund half of the projected cost of the project. The School Department supports this application and feels that this is a project that needs to be done and this is the best way to address the need.

This application requires a vote on the part of the city and the School Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.