

# SAMUEL L. BLUMENFELD

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## *Literacy Consultant*

December 1, 2010

Ellen Guiney  
Executive Director  
Boston Plan for Excellence  
6 Beacon Street  
Suite 615  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Guiney,

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mitchell Chester, who was quoted in the Boston Globe of November 29<sup>th</sup>, as being greatly concerned over the large number of potential dropouts in the state's high schools. As you were quoted in the article, "We can't afford not to solve this problem. We are wasting so many kids' lives."

I couldn't agree with you more! As you probably know, much of the problem these kids have is due to the fact that they were not taught to read in the proper phonetic manner, and therefore lack the literacy skills needed to achieve academic success. They were taught by a sight method that actually produces the symptoms of reading disability. And that is why I proposed setting up a pilot-project using a reading program developed just to solve this problem of faulty primary teaching.

Considering the sense of urgency expressed by everyone involved in trying to help these potential dropouts, I hope that you will consider my proposal and perhaps use your organization to sponsor it or persuade the Commissioner to set it up.

I would be more than happy to come to your office and show you the materials of the program and explain its philosophy.

Sincerely yours,

Cc: Gov. Deval Patrick; Commissioner Mitchell Chester; The Boston Globe.