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**Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Thomas Weber
Toured the BLOCKS Preschool and Met with Framingham Officials**

Framingham, MA – On Thursday, January 18, 2017 Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer, City Council Chair Dennis L. Giombetti, Superintendent Robert Tremblay, and School Committee Chair Adam Freudberg met with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Thomas L. Weber for a discussion regarding the best practices around early education. Prior to their meeting Commissioner Weber toured the BLOCKS Preschool with City Officials.

“High-quality early education and care is a powerful support for children, families, and communities with significant immediate and long-term benefits,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Thomas L. Weber. *“Making these opportunities more broadly available to our youngest learners is a shared responsibility that requires thoughtful policy, planning and coordination of resources, and I appreciate the opportunity to visit, learn about, and discuss Framingham’s plans and direction.”*

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) supports the healthy growth and development of children by providing high quality programs and resources for families and communities. The EEC is part of the Executive Office of Education, under Governor Charlie Baker. The EEC licenses approximately 9,000 child care programs, residential facilities, and foster care/adoption placement agencies that have the capacity to serve an estimated 230,000 children. On a daily basis, EEC supports an average of 55,000 children from low-income or at-risk families to attend a high-quality family or group child care program. EEC also provides technical assistance to licensed programs on complying with safety and best practice standards, and assists programs in advancing to higher levels of quality through a system of standards and support, including professional development for nearly 100,000 early educators in the workforce.

“Investing in our children is the greatest investment we can make for our future,” said Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer. *“I am committed to providing quality and equitable education for every child that lives in Framingham.”*

“It was great to join Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer, Superintendent Robert Tremblay, and School Committee Chair Adam Freudberg to highlight Framingham’s outstanding BLOCKS preschool program and discuss the future of early education with Commissioner Thomas Weber,” said City Council Chair Dennis Giombetti.

“Thank you, Commissioner Weber, School Committee Chairman Freudberg, and City Councilor Giombetti, for taking time to visit with us at BLOCKS Preschool today and for your support of our vision to expand access to early childhood education in our city. With the support of Mayor Spicer, the Framingham School Committee, and EEC’s commitment to early learning opportunities for children, I see a very bright future ahead!” said Dr. Robert Tremblay, Superintendent of Framingham Public Schools.



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"Early education sets the tone and offers tremendous opportunities to help a child's educational pathway to high achievement," said Adam Freudberg, Chair of the Framingham School Committee. "I am so pleased that Commissioner Weber spent the afternoon in our city with visits to BLOCKS Preschool located in my home District 4, and at City Hall with Mayor Spicer, Council Chairman Giombetti, and Dr. Tremblay. I'm confident that our discussions set the stage for future progress to benefit all of Framingham's young learners and their families."

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