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Statement on Governor Patrick’s appointment of Thomas Weber as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Carolyn Lyons, President and Chief Executive Officer of Strategies for Children, issued the following statement on Commissioner Weber’s appointment:

“Strategies for Children applauds the Patrick Administration’s appointment of Tom Weber as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Since his appointment as Acting Commissioner in March, Tom has worked to ensure that the agency stayed on track during a period of significant challenges. His leadership, policy skills and collaborative nature helped to stabilize the department and secure new funding to reduce the wait list for early education programs and address early education workforce recruitment and retention. We are confident that, as Commissioner, Tom will continue to provide the strategic leadership necessary to achieve our mutual goals for young children and their early education and development.

Despite leading the nation on many key educational benchmarks, too many children show up for school already behind and too many of them will never catch up. The achievement gap has proven too costly for Massachusetts taxpayers not to address. We will not close it until we ensure that children have access to high-quality early education and enter school ready to succeed. We are confident that Commissioner Weber can help the state achieve this goal.”

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