

## Tool\$ to Secure State and Federal Dollar\$

A seminar on securing state and federal dollars for Catholic schools brought together an array of leaders recently in Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Boston, including representatives from the Catholic Schools Office, Lynch Foundation, Catholic Schools Foundation, Campaign for Catholic Schools, Emmanuel College and PACE (Parents Alliance for Catholic Education).

Topics included an overview of the Massachusetts state voucher system and how to make your school eligible, as well as the experience of one principal – Monica Haldiman of Sacred Heart School in Roslindale – in successfully implementing vouchers. Principals Claire Sheridan and Kim Mahoney of Pope John Paul II Academy – the Columbia campus and Lower Mills campus respectively – led a discussion of free and reduced lunch programs. Accessing and implementing Title I and Title II dollars was addressed by Sister Suzanne Belleniot, SSJ, who is Associate Director for Public Policy and Secretariat of Catholic Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Although most Catholic school principals in attendance were familiar with concepts presented throughout the day, there was a general consensus that pulling together was critical in the uphill battle for Catholic school funding from government sources.



Where Catholic schools fit in to the U.S. Department of Education Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development was the subject of the day's final presentation. The speaker urged participants to think broadly – to focus on commonalities with charter and public schools rather than differences. "Catholic schools are part of a [growing] public discussion of great schools, and need to focus on quality more than sector," said Andy Smarick, a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and an Adjunct Fellow at the American Enterprise



Institute. “Catholic dioceses need to step up and take leadership in urban schools...and develop a strong, unapologetic relationship with the U.S. Department of Education.”

The Catholic Schools Office told participants that it will continue to be looking for government funding. If you have additional questions, please contact Jack Sheehan, Associate Superintendent, at [Sheehan\\_j@rcab.org](mailto:Sheehan_j@rcab.org).