



Massachusetts
Municipal
Association

One Winthrop Square, Boston, MA 02110
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www.mma.org

February 5, 2019

Dear Chief Municipal Official,

The Massachusetts Municipal Association is pleased to announce the return of the annual **MMA Statewide Essay Contest for 8th Graders**. This contest was created to raise awareness among students about local government, and to encourage students to take an active interest in their hometown government.

What:

The MMA invites 8th grade students in your community to participate in this year's essay contest. We are sending this letter to the chief municipal official (CMO) in each community and asking that the CMO complete the attached commitment form, giving the MMA permission to contact the schools in your community to invite them to participate. Participation by your schools is optional.

Who:

All 8th graders in your public schools will be invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded to winning entries, and the first-place essay writer will be invited to attend the Municipal Month Celebration at the State House in Boston in May.

When:

Please complete the enclosed commitment form and return it to the MMA by **Monday, February 25, 2019**. The MMA will send you, your superintendent, and the building principals the contest rules and information. Students will be able to access contest materials via our website, www.mma.org. The contest deadline for students is **Friday, March 22, 2019**.

Why:

The essay contest is fun for students, demands little time or preparation from the teacher, and invites students to think critically about local government issues. It is viewed as an independent student project but can be incorporated into a teacher's lesson plan. The MMA is available as a resource to any teacher, school or municipal official.

If you have any questions, please contact our Contest Coordinators, **Alandra Champion or Lisa Adams, at (617) 426-7272**. We are excited to engage and encourage students to think creatively about local government. We hope that you will join our effort by signing up your community today! Thank you for your time, interest, and leadership.

Sincerely,

Geoff Beckwith
Executive Director & CEO
Massachusetts Municipal Association