

Education Reform Document A: *Education Reform Timeline from Mass.gov*

First private school for blacks

1800 - After failing to move the legislature to extend public education to black children, Prince Hall invites black families to start a private school in his home.

1810 - School Districts Grow in Influence

School districts supported with local taxes grow in independence from the control of state government.

1817 - 1st School of Law

The creation of professional training programs such as Harvard Law School starts to refocus higher education from its orientation toward literature and classic languages.

1821 - First Free High School

Boston English School provides instruction in no language other than English. Its curriculum emphasizes math, logic, science and history with the goal of professional preparation.

1825 - 1st High School for Girls

Boston starts the first high school for girls.

1825 - Amherst College

The Legislature charters Amherst College in 1825. This further exemplifies the role played by religious institutions in promoting higher education.

1827 - Education laws

Towns with more than 500 families are required to provide public English high schools.

1829 - First School for the Blind in America

The Perkins School for the Blind, originally called the New England Asylum for the Blind, extends education to the disabled.

1837 - First permanent women's college

Mary Lyons establishes the Mount Holyoke Seminary for women. By this time there are already 120 colleges for men in the United States; by then Harvard College is over 200 years old.

1837 - First Board of Education in US

Horace Mann doubles state funding to education and teacher salaries. Fifty new high schools are built, along with formal teacher training programs and school district libraries.

1839 - First State School for Teachers

Three young women report to a school in Lexington a state operated teacher training program.

1852 - School Attendance Law

It requires children between ages eight and fourteen to attend three months of school. Towns rarely enforced this rule, but it popularizes the norm of schooling.