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**KIDS Consortium Seminar for Educators on Civic Engagement and Service-Learning
December 4, 2008 -- Noon to 3:30 p.m.
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA**

Framingham – On Thursday, December 4, 2008, KIDS Consortium is holding a Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Policy Seminar for 100 educational leaders from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine and Vermont. On the heels of the 2008 election in which 23 million young Americans voted, schools across New England are looking at educational strategies that engage young people as active problem-solvers in their communities. Co-sponsors of the session are the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

The Seminar features a keynote presentation by Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, at Tufts University's Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service. Dr. Levine will talk about youth participation in the November election and implications for education policy with a new Administration in Washington, DC, including the role of service-learning in preparing and inspiring students to become civically engaged. Through service-learning, students identify, research and address real community challenges, using knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

Dr. Levine will be followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Alan Melchior of the Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University, with New England educational leaders who are implementing innovative programs to integrate service-learning into local curriculum and educational programming. The program agenda and presenter list is attached.

KIDS Consortium, based in Auburn, Maine, is a non-profit organization that helps transform classrooms and communities through an award-winning educational model that has touched more than a quarter-million students to date. Founded in 1992, KIDS Consortium prepares young people to be active and responsible citizens by training and supporting educators, community organizations and youth in the best practices for service-learning. ###