

BESE 2019 Annual Report

Katherine Craven Chair, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education



January 2020

Dear Board Members,

Having served as a member of this Board since 2014, I was honored to be sworn in by Governor Baker as its chair in April 2019. I am grateful to each of you for your hard work and diverse perspectives and support, and I am particularly thankful to my predecessors, Paul Sagan and Margaret McKenna, for their service to this Board and to the Commonwealth's students.

During the 2018-19 school year, the Board's work touched on many areas, the most significant of which included:

- Approval of a new statewide accountability system that debuted in fall 2018 and which gives more nuanced and useful information about schools' and districts' strengths and challenges.
- Approval of a revised Arts Framework, the first update in 20 years. The revised framework emphasizes arts as an important part of a well-rounded education, and the revised framework also increases the importance of creating original work and responding to others' work.
- A new emphasis on teacher diversity, including the creation of the Board's Educator Diversification Committee.
- Closely working with the Board of Higher Education on Early College initiatives and cross-agency data analytics.

We also continued to monitor the receiverships in Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge. I appreciate the time that Board members have taken to learn about the three districts, and I look forward to hearing more about the districts' progress in the coming year.

In June 2019, we learned about Commissioner Riley's priorities, as set out in "[Our Way Forward](#)," his report to us. As he leads efforts to expand deeper learning, build a more diverse teaching force, and advocate for a wide range of supports for all students, I am hopeful that the work will pay dividends for all students, closing gaps between groups of

students of different races, ethnicities, language abilities, income levels, and disability statuses.

I am proud to be working with you in a Commonwealth that values and has led the way on education, and I look forward to working with each of you to serve all students.