



ESSA stakeholder outreach plan

June 2016

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is interested in hearing from a broad range of stakeholders about Massachusetts' school and district accountability and assistance system. Coming changes in statewide assessments and federal law have provided us an opportunity to reconsider the principles of our current system, the data we use to measure school and district progress, and the types of supports and assistance we make available.

We have organized our work for the 2016 calendar year into three phases:

- **Listening** (April to June 2016): Asking broad questions of our stakeholder community about their thoughts on the purpose and design of the state's accountability and assistance system
- **Modeling** (June to September 2016): Developing specific proposals based on the feedback we heard in the listening phase
- **Proposing** (September to December 2016): Sharing our draft proposals with stakeholders to further refine and improve them

Modifications to the system will be implemented at the beginning of the 2017–18 school year.

In the listening phase, we are gathering feedback through a variety of mechanisms to maximize stakeholder participation. These include:

- Developing a **master list** of over 100 stakeholder groups and individuals who may be interested in participating in the discussions and sharing opportunities and information with them as they come available.
- Posting an online **feedback form** open to anyone in the public who would like to share their thoughts or opinions, and requesting that stakeholder associations share the link with their memberships. As of mid May 2016, over 1,300 people had responded to the survey; the form will remain open until mid June.
- Holding a series of **focus groups** for representatives of stakeholder associations who would like to provide more detailed feedback in a discussion format.
- Working with a local non-profit, the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, to plan a **public event** on accountability and assistance on July 21. At this event, education stakeholders and organizations will prepare posters describing their proposals for the state's new accountability and assistance system. Attendees will have the opportunity to comment on these proposals to provide detailed feedback to the state.
- Participating in **meetings and presentations** with associations and organizations who would like to discuss these issues with their membership. (See next page for the list of organizations met with through June 10, 2016, as well as future planned dates where known.)
- Gathering **formal input** from others in the state's education policy governance structure, such as the governor's office, the legislature, the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board's Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council.

We will work through similar mechanisms in the proposing phase in the fall. Our aim is to finalize any proposed changes by the end of 2016 to allow time to submit our plan to the U.S. Department of Education and make any state-level regulatory changes that may be necessary prior to the beginning of the 2017–18 school year.

Stakeholder meetings on accountability and assistance

April 8	Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council
April 27	TeachPlus
May 3, 5, 11	Open focus groups for all stakeholders (100 organizations invited)
May 9	American Federation of Teachers and Massachusetts Teachers Association
May 17	Education researchers and Massachusetts-based policy think tanks
May 18	Title I Committee of Practitioners
May 19	State Student Advisory Council
May 26	Urban Leaders Network for School Climate and Student Support
June 1	Principals Advisory Cabinet
June 2	Teachers Advisory Cabinet
June 3	Network for Education Research and Data
June 6	Superintendents Advisory Cabinet
June 10	Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council
June 14	Next Generation MCAS Workgroup
June 14	College Board
June 15	Safe and Supportive Schools Commission (tentative)
July 12	Urban Superintendents Network
July 14	M.A.S.S. Executive Institute
July 21	Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy