



ESSA stakeholder outreach plan

September 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 ESSA transition into four phases:

- **Listening** (April to July 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** (July to October 2016): Developing specific proposals based on the feedback we heard in the listening phase
- **Listening** (October to December 2016): Sharing our draft proposals with stakeholders to further refine and improve them
- **Revising** (December to March 2017): Incorporating feedback from stakeholders in preparation for final submission to the U.S. Department of Education.

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

In the initial listening phase, we gathered feedback through a variety of mechanisms to maximize stakeholder participation. These included:

- Developing a **master list** of over 100 stakeholder groups and individuals and sharing opportunities and information with them as they came available.
- Posting an online **feedback form** open to anyone in the public who wanted to share their thoughts or opinions, and requesting that stakeholder associations share the link with their memberships. We received nearly 2,000 responses to this survey.
- Holding a series of **focus groups** for representatives of stakeholder associations 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 prepared posters describing their proposals for the state's new accountability and assistance system. Attendees had the opportunity to comment on these proposals to provide detailed feedback to the state.
- Participating in **meetings and presentations** with associations and organizations who wanted to discuss these issues with their membership. (See next page for the list of organizations met with through September 2016.)
- 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 fall listening phase. We also plan to add several regional listening forums where stakeholders can gather to share input publicly on our plans, as well as to hear from one another about their priorities and concerns. 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

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| 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 |
| July 12 | Urban Superintendents Network |
| July 14 | M.A.S.S. Executive Institute |
| July 21 | Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy public event |
| August 10 | State Student Advisory Council |
| August 10 | Safe and Supportive Schools Commission |
| September 9 | Birth to Grade 3 Advisory Group |