*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | December 13, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | District and School Accountability Targets for 2023 and Beyond |

At the meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) on December 20, 2022, staff of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Board will discuss DESE’s approach to setting district and school accountability targets for 2023 and beyond.

**Background**

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to set targets at the state, district, school, and student-group level for the purposes of annual accountability reporting. Similarly, under state law, the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) requires the Commissioner to establish statewide targets to address disparities in achievement among student subgroups and requires districts to set district-level targets consistent with those established by the state.

In recent years, DESE’s methodology for setting accountability targets pursuant to ESSA has been based on actual improvement demonstrated by districts, schools, and student groups, and districts have the option to use these same targets in their SOA plans. However, the fluctuation in recent achievement results because of the pandemic requires DESE to reassess its existing target-setting methodology to map out a more concrete path to recovery for our districts and schools.

At the December meeting, at the request of the Board, we will discuss the ways in which we can set ambitious and attainable targets that reflect a path to academic recovery for each district, school, and student group. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability and Associate Commissioner Erica Gonzales will join us for the discussion.

Due to time constraints at the December 20 meeting, this item is carried over to the special meeting on January 3, 2023.