*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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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:**  | April 20, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | 2023 Milken Educator Award Recipient: Leigh Beson |

It is my pleasure to welcome the state’s 48th Milken Educator Award winner, [Leigh Beson](https://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/newsroom/photos/view/leigh-beson-dighton-ma), to the April 25 Board meeting. Ms. Beson is an educator at Dighton Elementary School. She is the only Massachusetts recipient for the 2022-23 school year and is one of 35 recipients across the country this school year. The Milken Award recognizes exemplary elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and specialists who are furthering excellence in education and comes with an award of $25,000.

Ms. Beson has been a teacher since 2012 and taught first grade at Dighton Elementary School since 2018, using a combination of meticulous planning and adaptability to give each student the supports they need. The Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President stated, “Leigh Beson has a gift for using data to identify the unique needs and abilities of every student, creating a nurturing environment for them to flourish.” Ms. Beson has served on district literacy committees and committees coordinating multi-tiered systems of supports, and she has been a source of ideas and inspiration for her colleagues. She is currently a reading interventionist at Dighton Elementary School.

Ms. Beson received a bachelor’s degree in English from Fordham University in 2009 and a master’s degree in teaching from Northeastern University in 2012.

At the April 25, 2023 Board meeting, Ms. Beson will present on her experiences. She will be joined by Dighton-Rehoboth Regional Schools Superintendent Bill Runey and DESE’s Educator Preparation Associate, Grace Amalia Kingsbery.