*****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:**  | September 12, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Historical Overview of MCAS and the Competency Determination |

At the September 19, 2023, meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), Department staff will present a historical overview of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), including how the assessment has evolved since its origination in the 1993 Massachusetts Education Reform Act and why it is a critical tool in understanding the achievement of students in Massachusetts. Following the overview and discussion on the evolution and importance of MCAS, Board Vice-Chair Hills will present on MCAS in relation to the Competency Determination.

Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability will join us for the discussion on September 19.