**The Year Ahead (2017-2018)**

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**Strengthen Standards, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

* **Revised ELA & Math Frameworks:**
	+ The Board unanimously adopted the revised ELA/literacy and mathematics [frameworks](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/) in March 2017.
	+ Information on the revisions to the [frameworks](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/) includes:
		- The full 2017 frameworks
		- Grade-by-grade details of changes made to the standards
		- Shorter documents highlighting the more consequential changes
	+ ESE is creating additional resources to support the transition to the 2017 frameworks. These resources will include quick reference guides designed to clarify important aspects of the revised frameworks and What-to-Look-For tools to support observations of ELA, math, and science classrooms. [Four ELA quick reference guides](http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=24439) are already available!
	+ ESE will hold regional and statewide network meetings for schools and districts to allow educators to deepen their understanding of the frameworks and to play a role in the refinement of resources supporting the frameworks' implementation.
* **Updated Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) Standards**
	+ A cadre of educators, ESE's "Science Ambassadors" assisted schools and districts across the state to become familiar with the 2016 STE standards and the implications for curriculum and instruction. The overview [slideshow](http://www.doe.mass.edu/stem/ste/?section=pd) of the 2016 STE framework developed by the Ambassadors may be adapted for specific uses by districts to suit their particular needs, and a [Quick Reference Guide](http://www.doe.mass.edu/stem/ste/?section=planning) provides a useful overview for establishing effective STE programs.
* **Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards**
	+ ESE has created [resources](http://www.doe.mass.edu/stem/dlcs/) to help schools and districts implement the 2016 Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards, including professional development help, planning tools, and classroom resources.
	+ [Digital Learning Day](http://www.digitallearningday.org/) is February 22, 2018
	+ ESE will continue to encourage districts to participate in the [Hour of Code](https://hourofcode.com/us).
* **Revision of the History and Social Science Standards/Strengthening Civic Engagement & Learning**
	+ The History and Social Science Review Panel will continue to meet until November 2017 to make recommendations for the revision of the 2003 History and Social Science Curriculum Framework.
	+ A draft revision will be made available for review in early 2018, with a Board vote to adopt the revisions expected in June 2018.
* [**Next-Generation MCAS:**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/nextgen/default.html)
	+ The [2017-18 testing schedule](http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=24383) is posted online.
	+ Results from the spring 2017 MCAS, including results from the next-generation MCAS, will be publicly released in October.
	+ The 2018 grades 5  and 8  science and technology/engineering MCAS tests will consist of items that align both to the 2001/2006 and 2016 science and technology/engineering standards.
	+ In spring 2018, schools will be expected to administer computer-based testing for the MCAS ELA and mathematics tests in grades 4, 5, 7, and 8, as well as the science and technology/engineering tests in grades 5 and 8.
	+ Also in spring 2018, high schools will be expected to administer computer-based plot tests in ELA and mathematics to some students in grade 10. This pilot is intended to help high schools prepare for the next-generation assessments and to field test the new test questions.
* **High Quality College and Career Pathways**
	+ ESE, in partnership with the Executive Office of Education and the Department of Higher Education, will offer a process for schools/districts and institutions of higher education to seek formal designation for implementing [High Quality College and Career Pathways](http://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/?update=7/21/2017) that satisfy a rigorous set of criteria. The initiative includes both Early College Pathways and Innovation Career Pathways.
	+ ESE's Adult Community and Learning Services Office, in partnership with the Executive Office of Education, Department of Higher Education, and the workforce development system, is re-bidding the adult education system under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The new system will heavily emphasize student outcomes, innovative program designs, and create new career pathways through integrated education training models. Please see <http://sabes.org/videos> for new videos about adult education in Massachusetts.
* **Supports for English Learners**
	+ The last cohort of ESE-run RETELL sheltered English immersion (SEI) trainings ended in June 2017. New providers, including school districts, are being approved on an ongoing basis to increase the availability of courses for educators. A list of approved providers can be found [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/retell/For-Cost.html). Districts can apply to become approved providers but must meet all of the requirements listed in this [bid solicitation](https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-16-1026-DOE02-DOE01-00000007802&external=true&parentUrl=bid).
	+ ESE has developed [resources](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/curriculum.html) as part of the Next Generation ESL Curriculum Project to support curriculum development and has a list of [professional development opportunities](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/profdev.html) related to meeting the needs of English learners.
	+ In addition, districts can learn more about topics such as SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education), two-way immersion and ESL at [Guidance on Programming for ELLs](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/guidance/default.html)



**Promote Educator Development**

* **Massachusetts Equity Plan**
	+ ESE's 2017 Equity Plan update can be found [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/educators/equitableaccess/2017equityupdate.pdf), and the department continues to support districts in closing gaps in equitable access to excellent educators. We anticipate another annual update to the plan in 2018. The Equity Plan identifies inequities in student access to excellent educators and lays out plans to eliminate those inequities.
* **Educator Licensure and Preparation Regulations**
	+ The Board recently approved [revised educator licensure and preparation program approval regulations](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2017/2017-06/item3.html) (June 2017).
	+ Subject matter knowledge requirements that guide teacher preparation and MTEL updates will be released for public comment (July – September).
* **Educator Evaluation**
	+ As a result of the [February 28, 2017 amended regulations on educator evaluation](http://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/?update=3/10/2017), evidence of student learning is considered within an indicator in Standard II: Teaching All Students for teachers and Standard I: Instructional Leadership for administrators. The Department will be updating guidance documents to support districts in incorporating this regulatory change.
* **Educator Preparation**
	+ ESE is focusing on supporting preparation programs in the use of the [Candidate Assessment of Performance](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edprep/cap/), an assessment that mirrors the educator evaluation framework to determine candidate readiness.

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 [**Support Social-Emotional Learning, Health, and Safety**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/SEL/)

* ESE continues to collaborate with the [Safe and Supportive Schools Commission](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ssce/safety.html?section=commission) to propose updates to the online Behavioral Health and Public Schools [Framework and Self-Assessment Tool](http://bhps321.org).
* The [Educator Effectiveness Guidebook for Inclusive Practice](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/guidebook/) and links to free online courses about inclusive practice are [available online](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/guidebook/).
* ESE continues to make districts aware of the [Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/nprograms/cep/) which allows schools in high-poverty areas to serve meals at no charge to all students, increasing student participation while alleviating the administrative burden to process paper applications.
* As in past years, districts are still invited to participate in the [Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge](http://www.maschoolbreakfast.org).



**Turn Around the Lowest Performing Districts and Schools**

* ESE continues to revise its [ESSA State Plan](http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/ese/programs/accountability/financial-support/title-i-and-other-federal-support-programs/essa-every-student-succeeds-act/essa-state-plan.html) and post information about it online.
* Research on successful turnaround practices is also available online [(see Research Brief, Impact Study, Implementation Study, Field Guide, and Videos)](http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/ese/programs/accountability/support-for-level-3-4-and-5-districts-and-schools/school-and-district-turnaround/turnaround-in-massachusetts/turnaround-and-emerging-practices-reports.html).

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**Enhance Resource Allocation and Data Use**

* Districts, including charter schools, have access to new [Resource Allocation and District Action Reports (RADAR)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/radar/), which take advantage of the state's vast amount of student, educator, and finance data to provide districts new analyses about their own use of people, time, and money, and allow comparisons to similar districts.