The Year Ahead (2016-2017)

Strengthen Standards, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- **Updated Science/Technology/Engineering Standards**
  - The Board adopted updated STE standards in January 2016
  - A cadre of educators, ESE’s “Science Ambassadors” are assisting schools and districts across the state to become familiar with the 2016 STE standards and the implications on curriculum and instruction. Districts can request an Ambassador by emailing scienceambassadors@doe.mass.edu
  - ESE will continue to add resources to support transition to the 2016 STE standards.

- **Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards**
  - The Board adopted Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DCLS) standards in June 2016
  - ESE is creating crosswalk documents, integrated curriculum modules, and implementation resources for schools and districts.

- **Review of the 2010 ELA & Math Frameworks:**
  - Phase 1 (January-July 2016): Engage stakeholders and gather recommendations for revisions;
  - Phase 2 (July-October 2016): ESE engages content advisors, drafts revisions, and reports to the Board.
  - Phase 3 (November 2016-Spring 2017): ESE refines the proposed revisions; brings them to the Board for review and a vote to release the proposed revisions for public comment; conduct public comment period, synthesize public comment; make final revisions and bring the final standards to the Board for adoption.

- **Next Generation MCAS:**
  - Districts should plan for computer-based testing and should have registered their mode choice by Oct. 14
  - Board discussed competency determination (CD) (September 2016) and will discuss and potentially vote to extend the CD through the class of 2020 (October 2016)
  - Board discusses standard-setting policy committee recommendations (November 2016-winter 2017)
  - Districts familiarize staff with changes to test design and accommodations
  - Districts prepare for computer-based testing by using practice tests, sample items, tutorials, and training modules (January 2017)
  - First administration of next-generation MCAS tests in ELA and mathematics for grades 3-8 (April 3- May 26)

- **Revisions of the History and Social Science Standards/Strengthening Civic Engagement & Learning**
  - Public survey will be available by the end of October 2016
  - Review Panel will meet from January - June 2017
  - Initial recommendations to the Board (June 2017); 2nd phase of the revision process will take place in 2017-18.
  - The Civic Engagement and Learning Task Force will make recommendations for a strategic plan, based on responses to an on-line feedback form and other input.

- **Supports for English Learners**
  - The last cohort of RETELL SEI trainings will be delivered in 2016-2017 (approximately 3,000 educators). New providers, including school districts, are being approved on an ongoing basis to increase availability of courses for educators.
  - ESE has developed resources as part of the Next Generation ESL Curriculum Project to support curriculum development.
- Districts can access professional development opportunities related to meeting the needs of English learners.

**Promote Educator Development**

- **Massachusetts Equity Plan**
  - By November 2016, ESE will have trained over 1,000 MA principals and district leadership teams on ESE resources that can help schools and districts address inequities in access to educators by way of the Equitable Access to Excellent Educators – Massachusetts Playbook.
  - ESE is updating the August 2015 Massachusetts Equity Plan to include progress made on strategies and projects that support districts in closing gaps in equitable access to excellent educators. The updated plan will be released January 2017.

- **Educator Licensure Recommendations**
  - Survey gathered feedback on educator licensure recommendations from the Working Group for Streamlining Licensure Regulations and Policies (September 2016-October 2016)
  - Board discusses educator licensure recommendations (December 2016)

- **Educator Evaluation**
  - Working with stakeholders on possible amendments to the regulations to address concerns about the student impact rating.
  - Proposed amendments brought to the Board for a vote to solicit public comment (Fall 2016)
  - Supporting districts and educator preparation programs to calibrate understanding of quality practice to provide educators with more meaningful feedback.

- **Educator Preparation**
  - Supporting district and preparation program provider partnerships through newly awarded $3.9 million Gates Foundation grant; Elevate Preparation, Impact Children (EPIC)

**Support the Social, Emotional, and Health Needs of Students and Families**

- Massachusetts was selected to be a part of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) initiative to assist states through efforts to support statewide implementation of social and emotional learning (Fall 2016-Summer 2017)
- ESE formed a professional learning network of districts to address student discipline, suspensions and expulsions.
- Collaborating with the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission to propose updates to the online Behavioral Health and Public Schools (BHPS) Framework and Self-Assessment Tool.
- Disseminating and promoting the use of the Educator Effectiveness Guidebook for Inclusive Practice. Online courses and resources are under development.
- Working with districts as part of the Low-income Education Access Project (LEAP) to address disproportionality in special education identification and/or placement for low-income students.
  - Additional tools and resources for all districts to follow.
- Developed Guidance on School Policies Regarding Substance Use Prevention. Districts are now required to required to submit policies to ESE (due October 28, 2016).
- Continued outreach and assistance for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which allows districts 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.
- Launched the 2nd Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge

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

- **Every Student Succeeds Act**
  - ESE gathers feedback from stakeholders on the state’s accountability and assistance system (April-July 2016)
  - ESE develops specific proposals for modifications based on stakeholder feedback (July-October 2016)
  - ESE shares draft proposals with stakeholders to further refine and improve them (October-December 2016)
- ESE provides Board with an update on stakeholder feedback (December 2016)
- Continued discussions and drafting of the state plan (December-March 2017)
- Implementation of Level 5 School and District Turnaround Plans and direct assistance to receivers

**Use Technology and Data to Support Teaching and Learning**
- Districts applied for Digital Connections Partnership Grant and Loan Programs (due October 7, 2016)
- Representatives from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, Massachusetts Office of Information Technology, and the Office of Digital Learning present on digital learning initiatives at the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Fall Conference (October 19-20)
- Massachusetts hosts the Boston Future Ready Summit in partnership with Future Ready and the US Department of Education (November 14-15)
- Launch of the Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech Consortium (December 2016)
- LearnLaunch Institute and Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech Consortium hosts the Across Boundaries Conference (February 2-3, 2017)
- Digital Learning Day (February 23, 2017)
- Office of Digital Learning releases beta version of training curriculum for pre-service and in-service teachers on using Edwin Analytics data to inform instruction (June 2017)