



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Leading the Nation celebration?

Leading the Nation is a statewide celebration in which Massachusetts public schools and local communities will showcase their students' academic and creative successes.

Why are we organizing a statewide celebration of student success for 2018?

The numbers show Massachusetts public schools and students are at the top:

- #1 in the U.S. in reading and math on [NAEP](#), "The Nation's Report Card" (2015)
- #1 in the world in reading on the [PISA](#) international assessment (2016)
- #1 in [Advanced Placement](#) success in the country (2017)

But that isn't all that we're proud of:

- A four-year [graduation rate](#) that has increased each of the last 10 years
- Students recognized at the [national level](#) for accomplishments in overall academics, the arts, and vocational/technical skills
- A strong teacher workforce that includes a [National Teacher of the Year](#)
- A shared commitment to [welcoming](#) and [supporting](#) all students regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or gender

2018 is the 25th anniversary of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act, which increased and stabilized state aid to districts, established common learning expectations statewide, and made it easier to see where schools were doing well and where changes might be needed. We credit much of our continuing success to the 1993 education reform law, which reflects an enduring bipartisan commitment to serving all of Massachusetts' students.



Leading the Nation Week
May 7–11, 2018

[Mass.gov/LeadingTheNation](https://www.mass.gov/LeadingTheNation)
[#LeadingTheNation](https://twitter.com/LeadingTheNation)



When and where is the Leading the Nation celebration taking place?

There are three major components to the campaign:

1. A State House celebration (April 5, 2018): A celebration of 25 years of education reform hosted by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Education.
2. Leading the Nation week (May 7-11, 2018): A week of events throughout the state organized by school districts and community partners. These events could be showcases of student or teacher work, policy discussions, or a celebration of districts' strengths.
3. Media campaign (January-May 2018): Includes social media and outreach to news outlets across the state about local districts' successes and celebrations.

Who are the people and organizations that make up the Leading the Nation campaign?

The Leading the Nation celebration is coordinated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in partnership with the following entities:

- Boston Student Advisory Council
- Executive Office of Education
- Federation for Children with Special Needs
- Joint Committee on Education - Massachusetts Legislature
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
- Massachusetts Charter Public School Association
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Massachusetts Parents United
- Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association
- Massachusetts School Administrators' Association
- New England Board of Higher Education
- Rasky Partners
- Stand for Children
- State Student Advisory Council
- TeachPlus

A growing list of school districts and community groups are gearing up to celebrate student success in local communities. Ultimately, the people who make up the celebration are parents, educators, students, and other stakeholders in your community.

How do I learn more about the Leading the Nation campaign, and how do I get involved?

Whether you are a student, parent, teacher, or district leader, it is an exciting time to be part of public education in Massachusetts. Visit Mass.gov/LeadingTheNation to learn more about the celebration and to get involved!



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