

BESE 2018 Annual Report

Jeffrey C. Riley Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



January 2019

Dear Board Members,

I am honored to submit my first annual report to you as commissioner. It incorporates the work that has happened here at the Department's office in Malden and gives you vivid examples of the impressive work that is happening throughout the state's schools. I hope you will take the time to click on some of the links and hear directly from districts themselves.

My time at the Department during the last school year was brief; as you know, I became commissioner in April. The state's students and I have benefited from the solid foundation that former commissioner Mitchell Chester built and from the work that Deputy Commissioner Wulfson continued after Mitchell's untimely passing. I am grateful to both of them, to the Board, and to everyone in the education community who welcomed me and who have helped me transition to this new role.

Much of the work from the 2017-18 school year has continued or helped inform related work during the 2018-19 school year. After the Board's adoption of the updated History and Social Science Framework, we will continue to provide districts with ongoing implementation support, while also working through the revision process for the Arts Framework and beginning the revision process for the Comprehensive Health Framework. After recognizing a Teacher of the Year who inspired more than a dozen of his students to become math teachers, we have continued to find new ways to celebrate teachers and look forward to more recognition and recruitment efforts.

In future annual reports, you can expect to hear more from me about our efforts to narrow the state's persistent achievement gaps and promote racial equity, diversity, and cultural proficiency within our agency and the Commonwealth's schools.

Thank you again for your support during this year of transition.