

BESE 2019 Annual Report

Jeffrey C. Riley Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education



January 2020

Dear Board Members,

After completing my first full year as commissioner, I continue to be excited about the work we do together to serve Massachusetts students, as I hope I conveyed in “[Our Way Forward](#)” in June. The four themes I outlined there - deeper learning for all, holistic support and enrichment, the use of innovation and evidence-based practices such as building a more diverse educator workforce, and framing our work as a partnership with districts – are critically important if we are to make Massachusetts schools number one for all of our students instead of just some of them.

I was glad that some of you were able to participate in the [Kairos](#) conference held in Amherst in March; you saw firsthand the types of engaging, hands-on tasks that lead to deeper learning.

When I was appointed commissioner, I said that I wanted to do more to celebrate teachers, and during the 2018-19 school year, we did just that through the [#aMAzingEducators](#) campaign. Hundreds of students and colleagues sent us short messages about their [favorite teacher](#), many of which we shared on [social media](#). We also celebrated teachers through [public service announcements](#) and billboards, reminding people of this essential profession. Our work in this area is ongoing.

Finally, I would like to recognize two members who left the Board in 2019: Paul Sagan, who was chair at the time of my hire and who stepped down in early 2019, and former Chair Margaret McKenna, who was a member at the time of my hire and recently completed her time on the Board. I am grateful for their support and look forward to working with the Board’s new members.