



January 2023

Dear Board Members,

The 2021-22 school year reaffirmed for us that some of the efforts we had begun to focus on before the pandemic – deeper learning, building a diverse educator workforce, and early literacy among them – will be critically important as we go forward with both recovery and reimagining. Students need us to do better than we did before the pandemic, and thanks to your support, I believe we are on the right path. Our Acceleration Roadmap helped districts set priorities for the year and beyond and emphasized concepts such as building a sense of belonging and providing students with the just-in-time supports they need to accelerate their learning.

Our work would not be possible without contributions from each of you, and in that spirit, I want to thank Secretary James Peyser, who has been a partner since I was hired in this role. His background as a former Board chair and his interest in the details of education policy were valuable to our discussions, as was his professionalism.

In the summer, we said goodbye to Amanda Fernández and James Morton, although I have no doubt that they will continue working on behalf of the Commonwealth's students. I thank them both for their many contributions.

As we start a new calendar year, I am grateful to be working beside you.

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner