*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | February 14, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Potential Changes to 2020 District and School Accountability Reporting |

On September 24, 2019, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) released the [second year of results](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/accountability.aspx) under the redesigned district and school accountability system. Since that time, the Department has been reviewing those results and considering improvements that could be made to the system. At the February 25, 2020 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), we will begin the discussion about an amendment to the system for 2020 reporting and review the timeline for public comment and further discussion and action by the Board.

**Background**

When first implemented in 2018, the accountability system reported results based on one year of data. At that time, the Department noted that in the future, additional years of data might be added to the system so that it better reflects trends in district and school performance. To that end, in June of 2019, the Board approved the Department’s request to include a second year of data when calculating the 2019 accountability results. Data from 2018 and 2019 were weighted in the overall percentile and criterion-referenced calculations, with more weight on data from the most recent year (e.g., 40 percent for 2018 and 60 percent for 2019).

**Proposed Modification to the System for 2020 Accountability Reporting**

The Department would like to continue to build on its plan to incorporate multiple years of data in the accountability system by including three years of data (2018, 2019, and 2020) when calculating accountability results this year. Like last year, data from all three years would be weighted in the overall percentile and criterion-referenced calculations, with more weight on data from the most recent year. The weightings that the Department proposes for 2020 reporting are as follows: 20 percent for 2018, 30 percent for 2019, and 50 percent for 2020. These adjustments are included in the attached document, which summarizes key components of the accountability system.

**Timeline**

This technical amendment does not require revisions to the state regulations that outline the framework for district and school accountability and the accountability system. However, it does require discussion by the Board and the opportunity for public comment prior to final Board approval.[[1]](#footnote-1) As such, the Department has developed the following timeline for this work:

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| **Timeframe** | **Action** |
| February 2020 | Initial discussion of potential changes with the Board |
| March – April 2020 | Department to seek public comment on proposed changes |
| May 2020 | Final discussion and Board vote on proposed changes |

By following this schedule, the Department will be able to incorporate any approved changes in time to report the 2020 accountability results this fall.

Senior Associate Commissioner Russell Johnston and Associate Commissioner Rob Curtin will be at the meeting on February 25 to introduce the potential changes to the system and respond to your questions.

**Enclosures:** Summary of the District and School Accountability System (redlined version)

1. 603 CMR 2.03(10): *Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools*: The Department shall solicit public comment on proposed changes to the framework for district and school accountability and assistance, including changes to the indicators or the weighting of indicators in the framework. After considering the public comment, the commissioner will forward a recommendation for any proposed changes to the Board for approval. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)