*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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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:** | March 27, 2020 |
| **Subject:** | Education Collaboratives - Vote to Delegate to the Commissioner Authority to Establish Up to Six Regions and to Designate Lead Collaboratives |

In January 2019, Governor Baker signed into law [Chapter 437 of the Acts of 2018](file://ESE-FPS-MAL-001.doe.mass.edu/SHARED/FINANCE/Collaboratives/Legislation/Signed%20Ed%20Collaborative%20Bill%201_10_19.pdf), amending [M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter43/). This action was the culmination of several years of effort by a variety of stakeholders to codify the recommendations of the in the 2013 Report to the Legislature, [Special Commission on Education Collaboratives](file:///C:/Users/reh/Downloads/Joint%20Education%20J14%20REPORT%20-%20FINAL%252Stay%20safe.0(1).pdf).

As amended, the statute provides the opportunity for education collaboratives to play a greater role in improving supports and services for all students throughout Massachusetts. It gives the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) an opportunity to partner with education collaboratives, through the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC), to implement public education initiatives. It also requires additional actions by MOEC and individual collaboratives, and oversight by the Department and the Board.

I expect to bring to the Board limited amendments to the Education Collaborative Regulations, [603 CMR 50.00](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr50.html), in order to align with the new requirements of the law. In the meantime, two provisions of the statute related to the organization and leadership of the collaborative regions take effect in a few weeks. After consultation with MOEC, I am recommending that the Board vote at the March 31, 2020 meeting to delegate to the Commissioner the decision-making around these two new provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E:

(n) Education collaboratives shall be organized into no more than 6 regions established by the board of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives.

and

(o) The board of elementary and secondary education may designate a lead collaborative in each region to provide support for the implementation of initiatives consistent with the provisions of this chapter and accept proposals for such designation under procedures adopted by the board.

Such delegation is authorized by G.L. c. 15, § 1F, para. 3, which states:

The board may delegate its authority or any portion thereof to the commissioner whenever in its judgment such delegation may be necessary or desirable. The commissioner shall exercise such delegated powers and duties with the full authority of the board.

A motion for delegation is attached.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ruth Hersh, School Redesign Manager, at [ruth.e.hersh@mass.gov](mailto:ruth.e.hersh@mass.gov) or Alison Bagg, Director, at [Alison.w.bagg@mass.gov](mailto:Alison.w.bagg@mass.gov), or me.

**Enclosure:** Motion to Delegate Authority to Establish Education Collaborative Regions and Designate Lead Collaboratives