*****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:** | September 13, 2021 |
| **Subject:** | Statewide Student Assessment Report |

At the September 21, 2021, meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), I will present high-level results from the spring 2021 MCAS tests in ELA, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering.

In recognition of challenges of the pandemic, in spring 2021 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education offered a number of testing flexibilities to support districts and schools:

* The Department significantly reduced testing time for students in grades 3-8 through a session sampling approach, in which each student took only a portion of each MCAS assessment in each subject.
* Districts were able to offer a remote administration in grades 3-8 to accommodate families who chose to have their children learn remotely through the end of the school year.
* The testing windows for all MCAS assessments were pushed to begin and end later in the school year.
* The modified competency determination in English language arts and mathematics was extended to students in the class of 2022 who had not yet earned their CD, in recognition of the missed testing opportunities for that class. Juniors and seniors were still able to voluntarily participate in testing for scholarship purposes.
* The first administration of the next-generation high school science tests was postponed until the spring of 2022.

Rob Curtin, chief officer for data, assessment, and accountability, and Michol Stapel, associate commissioner for student assessment, will join us for the discussion on September 21.