*****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:** | October 8, 2021 |
| **Subject:** | 2022 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Announcement |

At our October 19 meeting, I look forward to introducing you to the 2022 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. We plan to announce the individual’s name at their school on Wednesday, October 6.

Each year, the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year program honors a Massachusetts teacher who exemplifies excellent teaching in the Commonwealth. Beyond celebrating the individual, the program looks at the complex work that is involved in educating all students and affirms the importance of the teacher as the single most important school-based factor in improving student outcomes.

This year, we worked with [The Teachers’ Lounge](https://www.theteachersloungema.org/) and [The Teacher Collaborative](https://www.theteachercollaborative.org/) to help broaden the field of nominations, and we gave extra consideration to elementary school teachers, who have been recognized with this award only once in the last seven years. In the end, 189 educators were nominated for this honor, up from 120 the previous year. Forty-three of the 189 nominees completed applications, and 11 became semifinalists. From there, we selected four finalists who were screened by a panel of recent Massachusetts teachers of the year and DESE staff members. It is an honor to be selected a semifinalist or finalist, especially this year, when we had a particularly strong field.

I know you will enjoy meeting the 2022 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and I hope you will consider nominating an educator in the future.

Attachment: [2022 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Announcement Press Release](https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/press-release-baker-polito-administration-announces-2022-massachusetts-teacher-of-the-year-95988)