*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Matt Hills, Board Budget Committee Chair |
| **Date:** | November 16, 2021 |
| **Subject:** | FY23 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Budget Priorities |

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) Budget Committee met in November to discuss the priority areas of focus for the Board’s FY23 state budget priorities for presentation to the full Board. The Committee’s discussions recognized the current state of K-12 public education funding with the infusion of unprecedented federal funding support and the Commonwealth’s commitment to the funding schedule called for in the 2019 Student Opportunity Act.

The Committee focused its discussion on advancing financial resources that support the Commissioner’s priorities as presented and discussed by the Board during our October 2021 meeting. This discussion outlined a number of areas the Commissioner and Department are actively working on to continue advancement for all students as we recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Budget Committee members highlighted a number of specific areas, including:

* Services for the social and emotional needs of students and educators
* Early college programming
* Continued focus on early grade literacy
* Funding to support additional student guidance and afternoon programming (clubs, arts, sports)

The Department noted in the Committee meeting that these specific priorities are consistent with the Commissioner’s Recover and Reimagine 2021-2022 agenda.

Given that, the Budget Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Commissioner to work with the Secretary, Governor, and Legislature to finalize an FY23 state budget for the Department that supports our collective priorities, as detailed below, for the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, the Committee recommends that the Board support the maximum funding available to support the state education accounts (Chapter 70, Special Education Circuit Breaker, and other district reimbursement accounts).

1. **Recover:** Support districts, schools, and students to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 while reinforcing DESE’s commitment to evidence-based programs

* COVID-19 supports to districts and schools
* Implementation of the Acceleration Roadmap
* Accelerated learning opportunities
* ESSER funding and guidance to districts and schools.
* Improved IEP guidance to support students with disabilities
* Improved resources for supporting English learners
* Early literacy evidence-based practice support
* Targeted district assistance

1. **Reimagine:** Reimagine education in the Commonwealth through transformative initiatives

* Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning
* Innovative science assessment
* Early college program expansion
* Diversifying the educator workforce
* Career/vocational technical education (CVTE) admissions
* Action-oriented research for educational equity
* Implementation of DESE’s racial equity decision-making tool