*****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 14, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Proposed Amendment to Regulations on Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools, 603 CMR 2.00 (Modification due to COVID-19 Pandemic) |

I am presenting to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) a proposed amendment to *603 CMR 2.00: Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools.* I recommend that the Board vote on March 22, 2022 to solicit public comment on the proposed amendment.

Among other matters, the regulations describe the Commonwealth’s framework for district accountability and assistance and the process for issuing annual performance determinations for districts and schools. The proposed amendment would allow the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) to suspend the reporting of some, but not all, components of our district and school accountability system following the 2021-2022 school year.

As I [informed the Board](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2022/2022-02/item3.docx) at our meeting in February, the Department requested temporary changes to certain federal accountability reporting requirements for the 2021-2022 school year from the United States Department of Education (ED). If ED approves our requested addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan, it will provide us with the opportunity to reestablish the baseline for future accountability reporting using data from the 2021-2022 school year. To that end, and to maintain consistency across state and federal accountability reporting requirements, I am proposing that the Board amend the state regulations by updating section 603 CMR 2.03(11) to allow the Department to suspend the reporting of certain accountability information this fall.

In the fall of 2022, the Department proposes to produce some, but not all, of the information associated with annual district and school accountability determinations. Under this “accountability lite” model, we intend to publish district, school, and student group-level performance data for each of the approved accountability indicators, as well as certain normative measures (e.g., school percentiles) that will help districts, schools, the Department, and the public assess the performance of all districts and schools using common measures. The availability of this information will also continue to help communities and the state decide how to assign resources and other assistance.

Under the “accountability lite” model, we would not publish indicator targets, points for progress towards targets, progress ratings, or determinations of each district’s and school’s need for assistance or intervention. These aspects of the traditional accountability system would be reconsidered for future accountability reporting cycles.

With the Board’s approval, the Department will solicit public comment on the proposed amendment. I will also ask the Board’s Advisory Council on School and District Accountability and Assistance to review and discuss the proposed amendment at their next meeting. After reviewing all comments and determining whether further changes are needed, I plan to bring the amendment back to the Board in June 2022 for final adoption.

A redlined version of the regulations is attached, along with a motion to solicit public comment on the proposed amendment. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability, will be at the Board meeting on March 22 to answer your questions.

Enclosures:

603 CMR 2.00: Strikethrough version of regulations showing proposed

amendment

Motion