*****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:** | June 22, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Proposed Amendment to Regulations on Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools, 603 CMR 2.00 |

At the March 22, 2022 meeting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to solicit public comment on a proposed amendment to 603 CMR 2.00: *Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools*. At the June 28 meeting, I will recommend that the Board take a final vote to approve the proposed amendment to the regulations, as presented below.

The memorandum to you dated [March 14, 2022](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2022/2022-03/item4.docx) includes the rationale for the proposed amendment, which would allow a temporary suspension in reporting some components of our school and district accountability system this fall because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Below, I am providing a summary of the public comment the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) received, as well as a summary of the discussion with the Board’s Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council (AAAC).

**Public Comment**

The Department received written comments from 8 individuals or organizations during the public comment period. A summary of the comments and the Department’s responses is attached to this memorandum along with copies of the submitted comments. Most comments supported transparent public reporting of all school and district performance data. One comment advocated for the complete discontinuation of the Department’s accountability system. No change was made to the proposed amendment as a result of these comments.

**AAAC Discussion**

The AAAC discussed the proposed amendment to the accountability regulations on June 1, 2022. Some Council members signaled their support for the temporary change, given the many challenges that districts and schools continue to face as a result of the pandemic. At least one Council member encouraged the Department to maintain its regular accountability reporting practices and provide additional context and explanatory materials to stakeholders to use when interpreting the results. No change was made to the proposed amendment as a result of the Council’s discussion.

I recommend that the Board vote on June 28 to adopt the amendment to 603 CMR 2.00 as presented. A redlined copy of the proposed change to the regulations is attached, along with a motion.

Enclosures:

* Proposed Amendment to Regulations on Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools, 603 CMR 2.00 — strikethrough version (redlined version)
* Summary of Public Comment Received
* Individual Comments Received
* Motion