*****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:**  | January 17, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Student Opportunity Act: Update from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education |

At the January 24, 2023 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, I will present an update on the [Student Opportunity Act](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2019/Chapter132) (SOA). Since passage of the Act in 2019, districts are using this new historic investment in education to accelerate learning through [evidence-based programs](https://www.doe.mass.edu/soa/evidence-based-program-area.docx) (EBPs) outlined in three-year gap closing plans submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department or DESE).

Districts submitted amendments to their original plans in April 2022. These amendments were comprehensive updates to districts’ original plans submitted in January 2021. The Department asked districts to revise their plans in 2022 in light of the impact of the pandemic, recent distribution of the first round of additional Chapter 70 funding authorized by the SOA, and additional federal ESSER funding. Department staff reviewed all plan amendments, provided feedback to districts, and posted the plans in a dashboard on the DESE [website](https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiZWNiZjcyMTgtZjhmYS00YzJiLWI1MWQtMzhhYmM4NmJlZDU0IiwidCI6IjNlODYxZDE2LTQ4YjctNGEwZS05ODA2LThjMDRkODFiN2IyYSJ9). In spring 2023, districts will report to the Department on their progress in implementing their plans, and in spring 2024, they will be asked to submit new 3-year plans.

Based on the information provided in SOA plans and plan amendments, Department staff customize supports offered to districts to meet identified needs, with a particular focus on supporting the 25 districts that as a result of SOA received $1.5M or more in additional Chapter 70 funding in FY22. As additional state data on district spending becomes available in the coming months, the Department will have more information on how districts are spending state and federal resources on strategies that are known to improve outcomes for students.

At the Board meeting on January 24, Department staff, along with our partners, will present on the Department’s supports and ongoing work with and in school districts to close opportunity and achievement gaps through effective implementation of SOA plans. Komal Bhasin, DESE’s Chief Schools Officer will lead the presentation, joined by members of her team (Associate Commissioner Charmie Curry, Senior Director Rebecca Shor, Director Erica Champagne, and SOA Coordinator Karen Johnston), and our partners.

Attachment:

FY22 List of Districts Receiving More Than $1.5M or More in Chapter 70 Funding