*****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:**  | February 22, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Boston Public Schools Update |

At the meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) on February 28, 2023, staff from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and EY-Parthenon will present findings from their assessment of the Boston Public School district’s data systems.

**Background**

Following DESE’s release of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) [follow-up district review report](https://www.doe.mass.edu/accountability/district-review/nolevel/2022-0035.pdf) in May 2022, the City of Boston and BPS implemented a [Systemic Improvement Plan](https://www.doe.mass.edu/accountability/district-review/nolevel/2022-06boston-systemic-improvement-plan.docx) to address the long-standing challenges facing the district. To support these efforts, DESE committed to providing targeted financial support and other technical assistance to the district.

Among the commitments made by the City of Boston and BPS is the implementation of systems and internal controls at the central office and school levels that will ensure transparency and accurate data reporting. To that end, in August 2022, DESE hired EY-Parthenon to conduct an independent review of source data, documentation, and processes related to data certified by BPS through DESE’s data collection systems, transportation services, facilities, student assignment, and internal BPS complaints concerning student safety and bullying.

At the February 28 meeting, staff from EY-Parthenon will present their report to the Board, including their analysis and recommendations for improved data quality practices. Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability will also join us for the discussion.