*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

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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:**  | May 17, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Comprehensive District Reviews |

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) conducts numerous district and school reviews for a wide variety of purposes throughout the year. It is the Department's goal to minimize the burden these reviews place upon districts and schools as much as possible, while also ensuring that we fulfill our legal and public obligations by conducting thorough, high-quality reviews.

To this end, the legislation that called for the creation of the Department's Office of School and District Accountability (now called the Office of District Reviews and Monitoring, or ODRM) requires the office to *ensure that no school or district is audited during the administration of any statewide assessments, and shall coordinate with other entities in the department to ensure that a school or district is not subject to multiple comprehensive audits or reviews by the department or any accrediting body within a 9 month period unless the board specifically votes to do so on an emergency basis* ([M.G.L. c. 15, § 55A](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleII/Chapter15/Section55A)). The Board voted in December 2010 to delegate this scheduling task to the Commissioner, and I am submitting this report for FY2023 comprehensive audits and reviews to the Board in accordance with that vote.

ODRM worked with the Department’s Public School Monitoring Office (PSM) to avoid any potential overlap when selecting the districts for the district accountability reviews required by state law. In addition, PSM and the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign worked proactively to avoid overlaps and conflicts for their scheduled reviews.

Compiling scheduled reviews by the above offices showed potential overlaps in 2022-2023 that were resolved as discussed below.

The following districts chose to proceed with two reviews that overlap in a nine-month window:

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| **District** | **Reviews** |
| Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School | PSM, NEASC |
| Baystate Academy Charter Public School | PSM, Charter Renewal |
| Cape Cod Regional Technical High School | PSM, NEASC |
| Carver | PSM, NEASC |
| Duxbury | PSM, NEASC |
| Excel Academy Charter School | PSM, Charter Renewal |
| Foxborough Regional Charter School | PSM, Charter Renewal |
| Groton-Dunstable | PSM, NEASC |
| Milton | PSM, NEASC |
| Norfolk County Agricultural High School | PSM, NEASC |
| Pembroke | PSM, NEASC |
| Pioneer Charter School of Science II | PSM, Charter Renewal |
| Swansea | PSM, NEASC |
| UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester | PSM, Charter Renewal |

The following districts chose to postpone Tiered Focused Monitoring reviews conducted by Public School Monitoring, due to concurrent New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) reviews: Brookline, Hanover, Whitter Regional Vocational Technical High School.

These efforts taken together have resolved all conflicts under the control of the Department.