# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner |
| **Date:** | May 15, 2024 |
| **Subject:** | Updates to the *District Standards and Indicators* |

At the May 21, 2024 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), staff from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) will share updates to the *District Standards and Indicators*, which serve as the framework for all district reviews conducted by the Office of District Reviews and Monitoring (ODRM).

State law establishes the requirement to conduct comprehensive reviews of public school districts, and state regulations outline the standards of effective district policy and practice upon which each review is based.[[1]](#footnote-2) Using the *District Standards and Indicators* as a framework, ODRM provides a review designed to identify the systems, policies, and practices that drive the daily work of school districts, as well as factors that may help or hinder staff performance and student outcomes. Analysis of these systems, policies, and practices includes a focus on how the district promotes equity for students belonging to historically marginalized groups.

Using the Department’s Racial Equity Decision-Making Tool (REDT) to structure the project, ODRM began reviewing and updating the existing *District Standards and Indicators* document in the summer of 2023. To date, the process has included collaboration with internal experts from across the Department and feedback from various stakeholders, including board advisory councils, district and school leaders, and the public.

Through these efforts, ODRM has revised the *District Standards and Indicators* document to include:

* **Alignment with the Department’s Educational Vision:** The revised document reflects the values, priorities, and terminology in the Educational Vision and other core documents.
* **Increased Focus on Equity:** The proposed changes reflect a strengthened equity lens and emphasize districts’ responsibilities to serve all students, particularly those who have been historically underserved.

The Department intends to finalize the document this spring and use it to inform the district reviews conducted by ODRM in the 2024-2025 school year and beyond.

Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability Rob Curtin, Associate Commissioner of Data and Accountability Erica Gonzales, and Director of District and School Accountability Robbie Havdala will be at the meeting on May 21st to discuss the *District Standards and Indicators* revision process, gather your feedback on our process, and respond to your questions.

Encl:

[Summary of Revisions to the *District Standards and Indicators*](https://www.doe.mass.edu/accountability/district-review/revisions-summary.docx)

[Revised *District Standards and Indicators* — Draft for Feedback](https://www.doe.mass.edu/accountability/district-review/draft-district-standards-indicators.docx)

Feedback on Proposed Revisions to the *District Standards and Indicators*

1. [M.G.L. Ch.15 § 55A](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleII/Chapter15/Section55A) and [603 CMR 2.00](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr2.html?section=all) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)