MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  |
| **From:**  | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | April 22, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | 2025 Milken Educator Award Winner  |

At our April 29 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, I look forward to introducing you to [Milken Educator Award winner Jillian Levreault](https://mailchi.mp/doe.mass.edu/press-release-southbridge-science-teacher-receives-25000-milken-award?e=583fc2bc03). Mrs. Levreault (formerly Ms. Lombardi) is a sixth-grade science teacher at Southbridge Middle School.

Mrs. Levreault was an early adopter of the inquiry-based [OpenSciEd](https://www.doe.mass.edu/stem/ste/openscied.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) curriculum, and she skillfully facilitates student discussions. In addition to her science classes, she leads a daily math lab, supports students in her advisory section, and has coached basketball and tennis.

Milken winners are chosen through the Milken Educator Award’s confidential selection process. Mrs. Levreault was not aware of her candidacy for the award until she was [surprised with an assembly and $25,000 award](https://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/jillian-levreault) at her school on February 7.

The [Milken Educator Award](https://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/) recognizes exemplary early to mid-career elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and specialists across the country who are furthering excellence in education. Recipients attend a national forum and join the national Milken Educator Network. Massachusetts has a long history of partnering with the Milken Family Foundation to recognize excellent educators.

The Department will celebrate all our recognized educators at the aMAzing Educators annual at the Devens Commons Center on May 13. We hope Board members will be able to attend.

Caitlin Haapaoja, Educator Effectiveness Program Coordinator at DESE, Dr. Jeffrey Villar, who has been receiver for Southbridge Public Schools since 2018 and who will end his tenure in the district on April 30, and William Metzger, who will assume the position of interim receiver on May 1, will join Mrs. Levreault for her presentation to the Board.