MEMORANDUM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | June 17, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Exit Determination on the Holyoke Public Schools from Chronically Underperforming Status |

At the June 24, 2025 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board), I will provide an update on the status of the Holyoke Public Schools’ (HPS) transition out of state receivership. At the October 29, 2024 Board meeting, Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston announced his provisional decision to remove HPS from chronically underperforming status at the end of the school year, anticipated to be July 1, 2025. Acting Commissioner Johnston specified in his announcement that the provisional exit decision would be finalized in June 2025 based upon the Holyoke School Committee’s (HSC) progress toward implementing its capacity building plan.

Since the announcement of the provisional exit decision, the HSC has shared regular progress updates on the implementation of its capacity building plan with then Acting Commissioner Johnston and now myself. As outlined in the plan, the HSC has systematically prepared to resume local control of HPS through trainings and governance activities in the core areas of policy development, finance and budget development, and superintendent hiring and evaluation.

During the discussion of this item at our June 24 meeting, Mayor and Holyoke School Committee Chair Joshua A. Garcia, Holyoke School Committee Vice Chair Dr. Yadilette Rivera Colón, and Holyoke Public Schools Receiver Anthony Soto will be in attendance.