Begin Recording



Educational Leaders Quarterly Webinar Summer 2025

Commissioner Martinez

Wednesday, August 20, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Commissioner's Priorities
- Recent Legislation Impacting K-12 Education
- Updates on Recent Amendments to Regulations
- Federal Actions
- Staff Attendance Data
- Al Updates
- Questions



Welcome and Introductions









Lauren Secatore

Chief of Staff

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Commissioner's Priorities



Priority Setting

BESE

&

Statewide Grad Council

DESE Staff

&

External Stakeholders

School Visits

8,

Roundtables



Virtual Listening Sessions (optional) with You!

September 16 4:00pm - 5:00pm

October 8 November 20 4:00pm - 5:00pm

November 20 4:00pm - 5:00pm



Recent Legislation Impacting K-12 Education



Erin Hashimoto-Martell Associate Commissioner of Instructional Support



Antisemitism Resources Update

- Posted curated resources in the spring, recently updated www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/safety/antisemitism-societalbias.html
- DESE-developed rubric for instructional materials & PD
 - Now: Internal review, followed by a public comment period, finalized this fall
- In SY25-26
 - Utilize rubric to make available model curricula and PD
 - Information and training sessions for educators



Special Commission on Combatting **Antisemitism: Preliminary K-12 Education Findings** and Recommendations

Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism



Preliminary K-12 Education Findings and Recommendations



Updates on Recent Amendments to Regulations



Lauren Woo Acting Deputy Commissioner



DESE's Response to Updated Regulations

Competency Determination

- Guidance issued in July 2025
- Hosted recent webinar

Career Technical Education

- Guidance forthcoming
- Time-Out Practices
 - Professional learning and funding
 - Regulations go into effect August 2026



Federal Actions



Matt Deninger Chief Strategy and Research Officer



One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- Voucher Program
 - States will have the option to participate in the program.
 - How it works:
 - Taxpayers can receive a federal tax credit up to \$1,700 per year for a donation to a qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations.
 - In turn, these scholarship organizations make funds available in the form of scholarships for eligible students (limited to households earning up to 300% of the area's median gross income).
 - This federal program is being developed by the Treasury (not by USED). Planned 2027 start.



One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- Cuts to social safety net programs (Medicaid and SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - The OBBBA implements stricter eligibility requirements and significant cuts to federal Medicaid funding.
 - This could impact students who rely on Medicaid and potentially reduce funding for schoolbased health services.
 - SNAP
 - The OBBBA also makes a funding cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), potentially impacting food assistance for children and low-income eligibility counts.



Other Federal Updates

- FY26 awards are available in GEM\$ as of August 1
 - Congress is working on/marking up appropriations for FY27. Stay tuned.

Supreme Court Decision – Mahmoud v. Taylor



Staff Attendance Data



Rob Curtin Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability



Staff Attendance Data

- DESE intends to publicly release staff attendance data from the 2024-25 school year later this fall.
- Districts were provided a preview of their rates upon submission of the EPIMS data this month.
- Districts will receive a preview period prior to the public release, but the data are final.
- Data will be released at the district and school levels for all staff, administrators, and teachers.



Al Updates



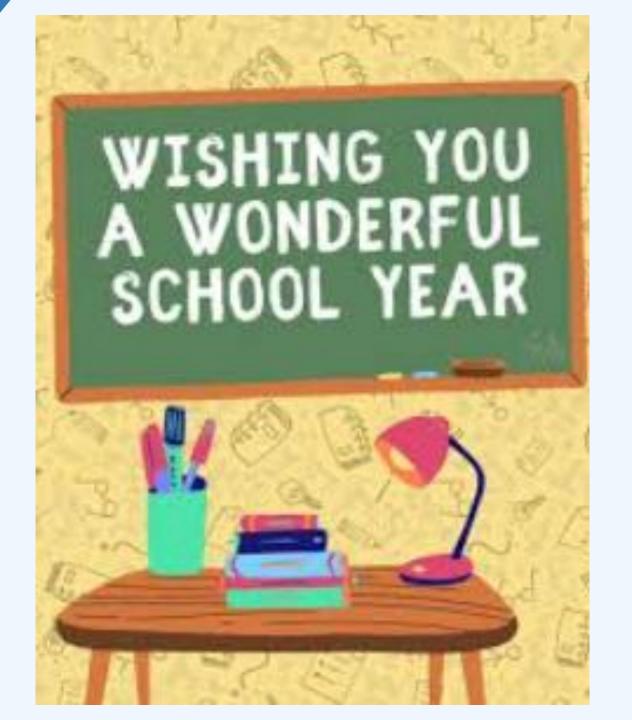
Artificial Intelligence in K12 Schools

- Two new statewide resources now available
 - Generative AI Policy Guidance
 - Al Literacy Module for Educators
- Grounded in the Al Task Force's recommendations
- Designed for local adaptation
- Part of DESE's multi-year AI strategy
- Access and share











Coming Soon

Look for the On the Desktop ("OTD") for today's webinar slides, recording link, resources, and more!

On the Desktop

A message from Commissioner Pedro Martinez and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



End Recording



Questions?

If you have additional questions that we did not answer during this webinar, please email the Commissioner's Office:

commissioner0@MassMail.State.MA.US

