

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
- AI Updates
- Questions

Welcome and Introductions



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WALSH SCHOOL

MARCH 1979



Lauren Secatore

Chief of Staff

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Commissioner's Priorities

Priority Setting

BESE
&
Statewide Grad Council

DESE Staff
&
External Stakeholders

School Visits
&
Roundtables

Virtual Listening Sessions (optional) with You!

September 16	October 8	November 20
Tuesday September 16 4:00pm – 5:00pm	Wednesday October 8 4:00pm – 5:00pm	Thursday 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 Combatting 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 school-based 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.

AI Updates

Artificial Intelligence in K12 Schools

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in K12 Schools



WISHING YOU
A WONDERFUL
SCHOOL YEAR



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