

Massachusetts Public Schools: LEADING THE NATION

#1

4th and 8th graders placed **first** in the nation on national tests of reading and math for over a decade



88%

88.3% of the 2017 graduation cohort graduated on time



11 Years

Graduation rate has increased for 11 consecutive years



Gaps Closing

On the 10th grade MCAS ELA, from 2006 to 2017, the proficiency gap closed by:

18 percentage points between white and African American students; and
20 percentage points between white and Hispanic students



The goal of the Massachusetts public K–12 education system is to **prepare all students for success** after high school. Massachusetts has identified five core strategies to accelerate our pace of school improvement.

Core Strategies



Strengthen standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment



Promote educator development



Support social-emotional learning, health, and safety



Turn around the lowest performing districts and schools



Enhance resource allocation and data use

Within each of these strategies, Massachusetts will focus on:
Improving literacy in the early grades
Improving mathematics in the middle grades
Providing high quality career pathways for our high school students
Increasing equity for historically underperforming groups of students

SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Understanding the Commonwealth's strategic plan for education

Massachusetts wants all students to enjoy success after high school. Students will be college and career ready, prepared for civic life, demonstrate skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete credit-bearing college courses, participate in certificate or workplace training programs, enter economically viable career pathways, and engage as active and responsible citizens in our democracy. In pursuit of these student outcomes, we will:



Strengthen standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment

The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks are designed to increase academic aspirations and raise expectations for learning. By setting and measuring high expectations, deepening professional learning for educators, and supporting child-first instruction, ESE aims to support Massachusetts educators in implementing high quality instruction that is aligned to our state's strong standards. The Next Generation Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (NextGen MCAS) is aligned to those high standards and designed to provide districts with feedback on student progress in attaining the standards.



Promote educator development

ESE aims to ensure that all students have access to highly skilled educators by supporting a cycle of continuous improvement and identifying opportunities to develop and retain highly effective educators. The Commonwealth's approach to educator development involves setting high standards for educators, evaluating educators based on those standards, and providing targeted professional development. ESE is also deeply engaged in strengthening the educator workforce by implementing more rigorous educator preparation program review standards, implementing performance assessments at the pre-service stage for administrators and teachers, and facilitating continuous improvement with educator preparation programs and the districts they serve.



Support social-emotional learning, health, and safety

Research and experience demonstrate that preparing all students for success (in school, the workplace, civic life, and more) includes attending to their social-emotional and health development. Furthermore, academic and social-emotional competencies are mutually reinforcing. Key levers in this work include safe and supportive school climate and culture, and effective family engagement. ESE is committed to building out supports and policies in partnership with practitioners in the field and other state agencies to advance this work in the Commonwealth, both in and out of school. It is our goal to promote systems and strategies that foster safe, positive, healthy, culturally competent, and inclusive learning environments that address students' varied needs and improve educational outcomes for all.



Turn around the lowest performing districts and schools

The state's lowest performing schools require additional resources and evidence-based interventions to support their rapid improvement. Our mission is to turn around underperforming schools and districts by supporting sustained improvement, so that all students have access to high-quality, culturally relevant learning opportunities that prepare them for successful futures. We know that if we can support our lowest performing schools in establishing a community of practice through leadership, shared responsibility, and professional collaboration; employing intentional practices for improving instruction; providing student-specific supports and instruction to all students; and providing appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral supports in order to create a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment for students and teachers, then schools will achieve meaningful improvements in student learning, so that students are prepared for success after high school.



Enhance resource allocation and data use

Education systems face a common challenge of delivering the best possible outcomes with limited resources. ESE aims to provide districts with data and tools to examine their local context and best practices so that they can make smart resource decisions to address their students' needs. Through technical assistance, guidance, and programming, the agency is committed to supporting educators in employing data and evidence effectively to continuously improve their work.

Please visit <http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/strategicplan.docx> to view the agency's full strategic plan.