**Rethinking Discipline Professional Learning Network -
2020-2021 School Year Update**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues to partner with schools and districts across the Commonwealth for the Rethinking Discipline Professional Learning Network (PLN). The PLN aims to assist schools and districts reduce the use of long-term suspension and expulsion for all students and decrease disproportionate rates of suspension and expulsion for students with disabilities and/or for students of color.

The 2020-21 School Year (SY) identifications were based on a multi-year analysis of the [student discipline data](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/ssdr.aspx) districts submitted from school years 2016-17 through 2019-20, as required by state law ([Chapter 222](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIII/TitleI/Chapter222)) and regulations ([603 CMR 53.00](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr53.html)). The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires a similar analysis of up to three years of data on disciplinary actions imposed on students with disabilities, and districts identified under that analysis are included in the PLN as well. A [description of the methodology behind those calculations](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/discipline/calculations-sy2021.docx) is available for download on [DESE’s discipline webpage](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/discipline/).

During school year 2020-21, DESE identified 13 additional entities (including schools, districts, and charter schools) for participation in the PLN (entities that had not participated in the PLN during 2019-2o). If entities were identified for reasons related to state law, DESE notified them that they are required to submit an [annual action plan](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/discipline/action-plan.docx) (that will be due in spring 2021), and all are encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities through the PLN.

With the goal of increasing student engagement and creating safe and supportive learning environments, DESE has partnered with The [Equity Imperative](https://www.equityimperative.org/). The Equity Imperative will facilitate a two part professional development series aimed at building participants’ capacity to develop and implement an action plan that incorporates a culturally responsive approach to alternatives to discipline. Due to the pandemic, all professional development offerings for the year will be offered virtually. Visit the [Student Discipline Resources webpage](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/discipline/) for information regarding the [2020-2021 school year professional development offerings](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/discipline/pd-calendar.docx).

The schools and districts participating in the 2021 Rethinking Discipline Professional Learning Network are as follows.

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| **District** | **School (if applicable)** |
|  |
| Argosy Collegiate Charter School (Fall River) | Argosy Collegiate Charter School (Fall River) |  |
| Bellingham | Bellingham (District)\* |  |
| Boston | Clarence R Edwards Middle\* |  |
| Chicopee | Chicopee Academy |  |
| Chicopee High School |  |
| Clinton | Clinton Senior High School |  |
| Everett | Everett High School |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Fall River | Matthew J. Kuss Middle School\* |  |
| Morton Middle School |  |
| Resiliency Prep School |  |
| Greenfield | Greenfield Middle School\* |  |
| Greenfield High School |  |
| Hampden-Wilbraham | Hampden-Wilbraham (District)\* |  |
| Leominster | Leominster High School |  |
| Lowell | Leblanc Therapeutic Day School\* |  |
| Lowell High School  |  |
| The Career Academy |  |
| Ludlow | Ludlow (District)\* |  |
| Lynn | Fecteau-Leary Junior/Senior High School |  |
| Malden | Malden High School\* |  |
| Milford | Milford (District)\* |  |
| New Bedford | Whaling City Junior/Senior High School |  |
| New Heights Charter School of Brockton | New Heights Chart School of Brockton |  |
| North Adams | North Adams (District) |  |
| Drury High School |  |
| Northbridge | Northbridge High School\* |  |
| Phoenix Charter Academy, Chelsea (District) | Phoenix Charter Academy, Chelsea (District) |  |
| Phoenix Charter Academy, Springfield (District) | Phoenix Charter Academy, Springfield (District) |  |
| Pittsfield | Pittsfield (District) |  |
| Taconic High School\* |  |
| Theodore Herberg Middle School |  |
| Plymouth | Plymouth (District) |  |
| Plymouth North High School |  |
| Plymouth South High School |  |
| Quaboag Regional | Quaboag Regional High School |  |
| Quincy | South West Middle School |  |
| Ralph C. Mahar | Ralph C. Mahar (District) |  |
| Rockland | Rockland High School |  |
| Roxbury Preparatory Charter | Roxbury Preparatory Charter School |  |
| Saugus | Saugus Middle School (Formerly Belmonte Middle School)\* |  |
| Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential | Sizer School: A North Central Charter Essential School (Fitchburg) |  |
| Springfield | Rise Academy at Van Sickle |  |
| Springfield Public Day High School\* |  |
| South End Middle School |  |
| Swansea | Swansea (District) |  |
| UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester | UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester |  |
| Wareham | Wareham (District) |  |
| Wareham Middle School |  |
| Wareham Senior High School |  |
| Webster | Bartlett High School |  |
| Westfield | Westfield High School |  |
| Weymouth  | Weymouth High School |  |
| Worcester | Worcester (District) |  |
| Worcester East Middle Schools |  |

\**Schools/districts identified in school year 2020-21 to join the Rethinking Discipline Professional Learning Network*