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| **2023-2024 Networking & Professional Development Series for Elementary School Principals and Early Childhood Coordinators** |

**WHAT:** The **Massachusetts (MA) Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** (DESE) Early Learning Team, the **MA School Administrators’ Association** (MSAA) and the **MA Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators** (MAECTE) is hosting a series of networking and professional development opportunities for elementary school principals (Preschool to 3rd grade), charter school leaders, early childhood administrators and educators from Career, Technical Education (CTE) programs, early childhood coordinators and educators during the 2023-2024 school year.

The theme for this year’s series is ***Student Voice in the Early Years/Grades****.* The 2023-2024 series is virtual (unless otherwise noted) and will commence with MSAA’s statewide convening followed by a virtual 3-part series, webinars, winter and spring networking sessions, book discussion groups, and a lunch and learn sessions. *This flyer is available and will be updated on the Department’s* [*Early Learning*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/earlylearning/) *pages.*

**WHERE & WHEN:**

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| **October 2023: Student Voice Convening**  DESE, in collaboration with MSAA, hosted a professional development session – ***Brave and Courageous Leadership through an Anti-Racist Lens*.** Matthew Rodriguez from the Equity Imperative along with staff and students from Salem Public Schools presented on student voice.* When: Thursday, October, 2023
* Where: Hybrid - DESE (Malden) or Zoom
* Time: 8:30 -10:00 a.m.
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| **October and November 2023: 3-part series - Student Voice in the Early Grades/Years** Matthew Rodriguez from Equity Imperative and his team will deliver 3 virtual professional development sessions (each 2 hours in length) on student voice in the early grades. These sessions will be interactive and include whole group and small group discussions. Participation in all 3 sessions is strongly encouraged but not required.* Monday, October 30, 2023 (3:00-5:00 p.m.);
* Monday, November 6, 2023 (3:00-5:00 p.m.); and
* Monday, November 20, 2023 (3:00-5:00 p.m.)
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| **December 2023: Regional Networking Meetings (in person)**With participation from DESE Early Learning Team staff and MSAA, regional network meetings will be hosted from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on:* Friday, December 1, 2023 (Southeast – Anna Ware Jackson Elementary School, Plainville);
* Friday, December 8, 2023 (Western MA – Dunphy School, Williamsburg); and
* Wednesday, December 13, 2023 (Central – Northbridge Elementary School, Whitinsville)
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| **January 2024: Book Group***When Kids Lead: An Adult's Guide to Inspiring, Empowering, and Growing Young Leaders* (2020) by Todd Nesloney and Adam DovicoBook group discussions will take place across from 3:30-5:00 on **Thursday, January 11, 2024** and **Thursday January 25, 2024**, and attendance at both is encouraged but not required. Discussions will be facilitated by MSAA, MAECTE and Department staff. |
| **February 2024: Webinar** On Friday, February 9, 2024, staff from the Safe School’s Program will present a session, *Honoring Student Voice: Strategies for Supporting Students’ Gender Identities in Safe and Supportive Ways*. The session will take place from 7:30-9:00 a.m. virtually. |
| **March 2024: Regional Networking Meetings (in person)**With participation from DESE Early Learning Team staff, MSAA and MAECTE, regional network meetings will be hosted from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on:* Friday, March 8, 2024 (Greater Boston);
* Wednesday, March 13, 2024 (Northeast); and
* Friday, March 15, 2024 (Berkshires)

If an elementary principal would like to host a future regional network meeting, please reach out to Donna Traynham (donna.j.traynham@mass.gov). |
| **April 2024: Book Group***Open Windows, Open Minds: Developing Antiracist, Pro-Human Students* by Afrika Afeni MillsBook group discussions will take place across from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, April 4, 2024** and **Thursday, April 11, 2024**, and attendance at both is encouraged but not required. Discussions will be facilitated by MSAA, MAECTE and Department staff. |
| **May 2024: Problem of Practice Learning Lunch Hour**Throughout the month of May, we will host virtual lunch and learn sessions where early childhood/elementary coordinators, principals, directors and educators can come together to engage in a problem of practice, consult on strategies and learn from one another on a variety of early learning topics. The lunch and learn sessions will take place from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and will be offered on the following dates:* Thursday, May 2, 2024
* Thursday, May 9, 2024
* Thursday, May 16, 2024
* Thursday, May 23, 2024

If an early childhood professional would like to share a problem of practice at one of these lunch and learn sessions, please reach out to Donna Traynham (donna.j.traynham@mass.gov).[Registration](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7807021/Early-Learning-Lunch-and-Learn-Sessions-May-2024) for these sessions is open. |

**Professional Development Points (PDPs):** The Early Learning team will provide 10 Professional Development Points (PDPs) for elementary school principals who, as part of this year-long professional development series, are able to take on a project or product related to early learning, anti-racist leadership and/or play as an instructional strategy and to engage in at least of 10 hours of professional development over this year-long series. For more information, see DESE’s early learning [PDP request template](https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/earlylearning/).

**QUESTIONS**: For questions about any of the convenings in this professional development calendar, please contact a member of the Early Learning Team via 781-338-3010 or achievement@mass.gov.

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