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| **2024-2025 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 and the **MA School Administrators’ Association** (MSAA) 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 2024-2025 school year.

The theme for this year’s series is ***Early Literacy and Language Development in the Early Years/Grades****.* The 2024-2025 series is virtual (unless otherwise noted) and will commence with MSAA’s in-person statewide convening followed by webinars, winter and spring networking sessions, book discussion groups, and 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 4, 2024: Early Literacy Summit, PK-5th Grade**  MSAA, in collaboration with DESE, will host an Early Literacy Summit for elementary principals and early childhood administrators. The focus of the Summit will be on supporting school leaders in implementing culturally and linguistically sustaining early literacy practices, Preschool through 5th grade* When: **Friday, October 4th**
* Where: MSAA Office – 33 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA
* Time: 8:30 -12:00 p.m.
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| **November 2024: Virtual Lunch and Learn – Supporting Early Literacy through Playful Learning** The Early Learning team will host a virtual lunch and learn session from **1:00-2:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18th**. Principals and early childhood coordinators are encouraged to join in networking and sharing ideas on how playful learning is being used as a strategy to promote student’s early literacy and language development. |
| **December 2024: Regional Networking Meetings (in person)**With participation from DESE Early Learning Team staff and MSAA, regional network meetings will be in-person and hosted from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on:* Tuesday, **December 3, 2024** (**Southeast** – location TBD);
* Tuesday, **December 10, 2024** (**Western MA** – location TBD); and
* Thursday, **December 12, 2024** (**Central MA** – Mary Finn Elementary School, Southborough)
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| **January 2025: Webinar Presentation and Lunch and Learn Session*** MSAA and the Department’s early learning team will be hosting a webinar entitled *Little Learners, Big Hearts: A Teacher’s Guide to Nurturing Empathy and Equity in Early Childhood.* Co-authors Dr. Orinthia Harris and Jill Flanders will present this session from **3:30-5:00 on Tuesday, January 14, 2025**.
* Additionally, the Early Learning Team will host a Lunch n Learn session on **Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 12:00-1:00.** Elementary principals and early childhood administrators are encouraged to join this virtual networking opportunity to discuss topics that on the minds of the participants.

Registration for both January events is [open](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8135841/Early-Learning-Opportunities-January-2025). |
| **February 2025: Book Group Discussion** We invite elementary principals and early childhood administrators to join a book discussion on *Open Windows, Open Minds: Developing Antiracist, Pro-Human Students* by Afrika Afeni Mills. This book provides opportunities to discuss the importance of anti-racist teaching practices in the early grades.The book group discussion will take place on **Tuesday, February 11th from 3:30-5:00**.Registration for this book group discussion will open in January.  |
| **March 2025: Lunch n Learn Session**Join us for a Lunch n Learn session on **Friday, March 14 from 12:00-1:00.** Elementary principals and early childhood administrators are encouraged to join this virtual networking opportunity to discuss topics that are on the minds of the participants.Registration for this event will be available in February. |
| **April 2025: Regional Networking Meetings (in person)**With participation from DESE Early Learning Team staff and MSAA, regional network meetings will be in-person and hosted from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on:* Tuesday, April 8, 2025 (Greater Boston – location TBD);
* Thursday, April 10, 2025 (Northeast – location TBD); and
* Wednesday, April 16, 2024 (Berkshires – location TBD)

If an elementary principal would like to host a future regional network meeting, please reach out to Donna Traynham (donna.j.traynham@mass.gov).Registration for the spring network meetings will open in March. |
| **May 2025: 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 and will be offered on the following dates:* Thursday, May 1, 2025
* Thursday, May 8, 2025
* Thursday, May 15, 2025
* Thursday, May 22, 2025

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 for these sessions will open in April 2025. |

**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/pdp-template-fy25.docx).

**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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