October 18, 2022

Good afternoon, District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well!

As a follow-up to Chief Schools Officer Komal Bhasin’s [September 30 message](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/2022-0930district-communication.docx) following the release of accountability data, I want to outline the work of the Statewide System of Support (SSoS) in assisting your district in the implementation of its priorities. The message below provides a headline of how we will be providing targeted assistance, as a preview to district-specific direct outreach you will receive from SSoS staff later this week.

As stated in Komal’s letter, this year the Center for School and District Partnership (CSDP) will offer a variety of [supports](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/) to districts, including financial resources, professional development, a selection of tools, etc. As an office within CSDP, the SSoS will provide targeted assistance to schools and districts identified by the following criteria: schools in the lowest 10th percentile; schools with a federal designation; and schools designated as underperforming as per MGL Chapter 69 1J.  Based on improvement demonstrated by the 2022 accountability results, some schools and districts will transition from SSoS support this year, and in these cases may receive transitional support, such as [Targeted Assistance Grants (TAG)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/redesign/#:~:text=Targeted%20Assistance%20Grant%20%28TAG%29%20The%20Targeted%20Assistance%20Grant,most%20pressing%20to%20facilitate%20school%20and%20district%20improvement.) or support from the [(CSDP)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/), based on district need.

**SSoS Support Available in 2022-23**

SSoS is committed to assisting districts and schools across Massachusetts to implement systems and practices that advance equity and racial equity and result in positive outcomes and learning experiences for all students, particularly those who have been historically marginalized. This commitment often requires us to reexamine how we distribute opportunity and access. If we are holding true to our values, we recognize that *redistribution of resources*becomes a key principle of advancing equity. To that end, the SSoS Model supports schools and districts that meet any of the criteria above to:

1. Identify clear priorities anchored in culturally responsive grade appropriate instruction and sense of belonging;
2. Target support in service of those priorities, with a particular focus on supporting school and district ILTs, HQIM adoption and implementation.

**Which Schools and Districts Will Receive SSoS Support in SY23:**

The following districts will receive prioritized assistance from SSoS. Prioritized assistance means that a Regional Assistance team will be assigned to your district to support the implementation of your district’s priorities: Athol-Royalston, Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Gateway, Greenfield, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, North Adams, Northampton, Orange, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Webster, Winchendon, Worcester.

The following districts have one or more school(s) that are identified as among the lowest-performing 10% of schools. These districts will receive supports from CSDP rather than SSoS: Everett, Haverhill, Hawlemont, Hoosac Valley Regional, Rowe, Salem, Waltham, Wareham.

Based on improvement demonstrated by the 2022 accountability results, the following districts no longer qualify for prioritized assistance from SSoS and will transition off the SSoS caseload. This means that Regional Assistance teams will partner with these districts to determine transitional support that could include certain CSDP offerings and partner supports: Amherst, Amherst-Pelham, Attleboro, Beverly, Clinton, Easthampton, Gardner, Gloucester, Greater Lowell RVT, Malden, Peabody, Randolph, Saugus, Uxbridge, Westfield. We will aim to complete transitional supports by November 23.

**Upcoming Communications & Resources**

This week, members of our SSoS Regional Assistance Teams will reach out to districts receiving prioritized assistance to discuss and confirm support plans for each school and district. For districts receiving CSDP support, you can expect communication from CSDP in the coming weeks. We look forward to supporting each district’s priorities this year.

Thank you for your commitment to the students in your learning communities. We are eager to support the ways in which you will lead your school communities toward positive outcomes for all students.

Sincerely,

Charmie