*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

### 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

May 15, 2023

Dear District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well, and that you are feeling accomplished as you prepare to close out SY23. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your thoughtful engagement with our office this year. We are appreciative of your relentless focus on improving student outcomes and value your commitment to closing opportunity and equity gaps in our schools, so that all our learners can flourish!

Thank you for your feedback on our District Experience Survey. Your feedback is allowing us to refine our efforts. For example, 19 out of 22 districts, 86 percent of districts agreed strongly, or somewhat agreed that SSoS support ensured the district’s instructional priority had a particular focus on closing equity and opportunity gaps. Your narrative comments articulated your appreciation of the “focus” SSoS provided your district! Twenty-seven percent of districts reported that they disagreed strongly, disagreed somewhat, or were unsure that SSoS assistance resulted in meaningful shifts in educator practice and student learning. You clearly communicated the need to see a through line between our direct supports to your priorities and the impact on your district outcomes. This is a shared value, and as we look ahead to next year’s work, we are eager to strengthen our focus so that we see more aligned outcomes.

As we prepare to close out our year, I want to make you aware of upcoming deadlines and an opportunity coming later in the summer:

* The [district submission](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fturnaround%2Flevel4%2Fprioritization%2Fsubmission-guidance.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) is due June 30th. The 10 schools designated as “underperforming” will also need to renew their SIP plans as per M.G.L. Chapter 69 1J. These school plans must align to the priorities outlined in the district’s submission. Please reference the [Sustainable Improvement Plan](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html)  guidance for details. **Both the district submissions and underperforming school renewal plans (if applicable) for the 2023-2024 school year should be submitted to DESE by** **June 30, 2023** **(via email to** **ssos1@mass.gov****).** Your SSoS regional assistance team will continue to support your development of these plans. Once submitted, SSoS will use regularly scheduled engagements to provide feedback and support revisions to your plan before the launch of next school year. Similarly, SSoS will look forward to learning about your progress toward SY22-23 outcomes in your end-of-year progress monitoring. This checkpoint will be critical and valuable to your work on your district submission.
* We will host an *optional* webinar on **August 23, 3-4 p.m. to discuss an overview of SSoS support to all districts in the SSoS portfolio.** At this webinar, we will review with participants our yearly calendar, provide an overview of expectations of our partnership, and share specifics regarding our support to Underperforming Schools. We will answer questions you may have and share any implications for support based upon the fall release of accountability designations. Please look out for an invitation with the webinar link. *The webinar will be recorded and posted on our website shortly after.*

As this will be the last formal communication before the end of the school year, I want to wish you a restful, memorable summer with your loved ones. *We look forward to reconnecting with you in August.*

Sincerely,

Charmie Curry, EdD

*Associate Commissioner, Statewide System of Support*