Dear District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well, and that you have found genuine joy and bountiful rest this summer. As we come into the new fiscal year, I feel I have recuperated from a year full of deep work (I enthusiastically recommend!) and am energized for what is ahead.

In March, we set an ambitious goal to have districts share their plans for implementing their instructional priorities by June 30. **By June 30th, we received 100 percent of our 22 district submissions! Thank you!** *Why does this matter?* I am naming this statistic not just for numbers sake, but for what it represents.

* With your skillful work, you communicated your commitment to a plan that will serve as a directional guide for the next cycle of your district’s systemic improvement efforts.
* In submitting your plans *on time*, you gave our teams adequate bandwidth to thoughtfully review plans and prepare to provide high-leverage feedback this month that will ensure your plan will be launched effectively, and with fidelity, and thus increase the likelihood of improved outcomes for your students.

As we prepare to launch our year, I want to remind you of an opportunity happening next week, share two resources that will guide our partnership in SY24, and some updates on FY24 Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG):

* We will host an *optional* webinar on **August 23, 3-4:30 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. *The webinar will be recorded and posted on our website shortly after.*
	+ Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8549524056>
	+ Meeting ID: 854 952 4056
* Attached is an overview to clarify the district work that SSoS will support and a full-year calendar of predictable assistance activities for the year. *We will touch on both resources on August 23.*

**FY24 TAG Update**

The Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) is intended to help districts create systems to support schools in implementing their priority identified in the District Prioritization Submission.*We encourage districts to apply as soon as possible. Funds become available upon approval, so the sooner districts submit, the sooner they will have their TAG funding.* ***Applications are due 10/31/23****.*

*Eligibility*

* Districts with schools currently identified as either in the bottom 10 percentiles in the 2022 Massachusetts District and School Accountability System, have a federal designation, or are identified as an underperforming school in districts served by CSDP.

*Allocation Guidelines*

* All districts receiving TAG funds will have until 6/30/24 to expend them, whether the funds are federal or state. *This will be the same deadline for some districts and an earlier deadline for others. All districts will have the opportunity to expend TAG funds in July and August 2024 if they apply for it. More information on that will be shared in the spring of 2024.*
* We have developed an equity-focused formula to determine the amount of funds districts will receive. Districts with the greater number of schools identified as requiring assistance will receive a greater amount of funds. ***Note:*** *Additional funds could be added following the release of 2023 accountability results, but no funds will be taken away based on 2023 data.*

***Please reach out to Michael Seymour if you have any specific questions on TAG***: Michael.J.Seymour@mass.gov.

We remain 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!

Sincerely,

Charmie Curry, EdD

*Associate Commissioner, Statewide System of Support*