*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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|  Jeffrey C. Riley *Commissioner* |  |

September 22, 2023

Dear District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well as you settle into a strong start to the school year.  As a follow-up to Chief

Schools Officer Komal Bhasin’s September 21 message (attached) 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.

As stated in Komal’s letter, 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; schools with student groups in the lowest 5th percentile; and schools designated as underperforming as per MGL Chapter 69 1J.  Based on improvement demonstrated by the 2023 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 SY2023-2024**

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.  To that end, the [SSoS Model](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/ssos-model.pptx) 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;

1. Target support in service of those priorities, with a particular focus on supporting school and

district ILTs, HQIM adoption and implementation.

The SSoS Model for support aligns with [DESE’s Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/) and is grounded in the annual [District Instructional Priority Submission](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html?section=sustainable). SSoS’ partnership with districts (see attached Partnership Overview) and schools relies on close collaboration with key district leadership and regular visits to identified schools to support the district’s strategy for implementing its instructional priority. SSoS is committed to ensuring these collective efforts result in districts reaching their goals for improved student outcomes.

**Which Schools and Districts Will Receive SSoS Support in SY2023-2024:**

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, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Gardner, Gloucester, Greenfield, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Webster, Winchendon, Worcester.

Based on improvement demonstrated by the 2023 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 strengthens each district’s ability to

sustain improvement efforts: Gateway, Northampton, Orange.

**We will aim to complete transitional supports by October 6.**

**Upcoming Communications & Resources**

**By Oct. 6**, members of our SSoS Regional Assistance Teams will reach out to any **new** districts receiving

prioritized assistance to discuss and confirm support plans for each school and district. SSoS support plans

will be based on the SSoS Model, and the expectations articulated in the attached SSoS-District Partnership

Overview and Assistance Calendar. Districts returning to the SSoS caseload will receive follow up based on

recent data, aligned to the current cadence of ongoing support.

Should you have any questions specific to your district, please reach out to the West/Central or

Coastal regional director:

*Districts in the West/Central Region*: Joan Tuttle, Tim Connor (Joan.C.Tuttle@mass.gov, Timothy.Connor@mass.gov)

*Districts in the Coastal Region*: Sheryl Rabbitt (Sheryl.Rabbitt@mass.gov)

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 Curry, EdD

*Associate Commissioner, Statewide System of Support*