May 13, 2024

Dear District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well, and that you are feeling accomplished as you prepare to close out the school year. 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 engagement at the annual Instructional Prioritization Institute in April and early this month. Seventeen SSoS district teams showed up energized, hopeful, and motivated to create plans for FY25. As a result, your districts have draft instructional priorities that will guide your planning efforts for the next school year. We look forward to supporting the refinement of those priorities, and ensuing strategies to help you accomplish your goals.

As always, we are immensely grateful for your thoughtful feedback to us. In that spirit, we are asking you to complete our [End of Year District Experience Survey](https://forms.office.com/g/PWfx4dMfEC). We believe feedback is essential to our work and is an invaluable tool to strengthen stakeholder engagement. Your feedback allows us to reflect on our service delivery, internal coherence, and the overall efficacy of our office’s efforts to help you accomplish your goals. We thank you in advance for your candid feedback. You may access the survey link [here](https://forms.office.com/g/PWfx4dMfEC). **We ask that the district superintendent, or a designee with proximity to the improvement work with SSoS, complete the survey by Friday, June 7.**

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:

* Plan Submission due June 28:
  + All SSoS districts: Please complete your annual [FY25 District Instructional Prioritization Plan](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fturnaround%2Flevel4%2Fprioritization%2F2024-0301fy25-submission-guidance.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) by **June 28th**.
  + Districts with Underperforming Schools: The 8 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 Instructional Prioritization Plans and underperforming school renewal plans (if applicable) for the 2023-2024 school year should be submitted to DESE by** **June 28, 2024** **(via email to** [**ssos1@mass.gov**](mailto:ssos1@mass.gov)**).** Your SSoS regional assistance team will continue to support your development of these plans in addition to supporting end of year progress monitoring. 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 SY23-24 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 22, 2024, 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 successful end to the school year, followed by 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*