**2024-25 Educational Personnel Advisory Council**

January 23, 2025: 3:00p – 5:00p

[Zoom Link](https://zoom.us/j/3799177895/) and Meeting ID: 379 917 7895.

The [Educator Personnel Advisory Committee](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/councils/epac.html) (EPAC) is charged with advising the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education on policy and programming pertaining to the educator workforce.

**Agenda**

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| 3:00 | **Welcome & EPAC Overview**   * [DESE Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/) |
| 3:15 | **Introductions and Member Sharing** |
| 3:45 | **Professional Licensure Programs**  We are currently developing guidelines for Professional Licensure Educator Preparation Programs to better align with current needs. We would like to gather insights from EPAC to understand the areas where Professional Programs Guidelines could help improve teacher experiences; what is most supportive and helpful for teachers, the challenges teachers face when pursuing their professional license face, and any other feedback that could help us refine our approach to these updated expectations. We want to understand what is happening in the field, and work on developing specific and distinct guidelines for professional licensure programs. |
| 4:45 | **DESE Update Discussion & Closing** |

**Community Agreements:**

1. **Practice confidentiality:** Everyone should feel safe to show up as their authentic selves in this space and share openly without fear of conversations leaving this group.
2. **Speak your truth and honor other people’s truth:** We honor that we all come from different backgrounds, hold different identities, and have different experiences which shape the way in which we see the world.
3. **Step up, step back, seek out:** We contribute our own thoughts, create space for others who have different ways of engaging, and seek out experiences and voices that we have not yet included.
4. **Acknowledge intent, own impact:** While we may share with good intentions **and an asset-based approach**, we recognize our words and actions may have different impacts on others, and commit to creating space to listen, apologize and repair harm.
5. **Expect and persist through non-closure:** There are a lot of complexities to the work we will do. We know that it might not always feel like we’ve arrived at a certain destination, and we also commit to persisting when non-closure stems from inequitable systems and barriers.
6. **Engage critically and collaboratively:** We will work together collaboratively and embrace critical and disruptive thinking as powerful tools to push one another in our thinking and to work towards justice for educators and students.

**Future meetings:**

* **Thursday, March 20, 2025** from 3:30–5:30p (Virtual)
  + Zoom information: [Zoom Link](https://zoom.us/j/3799177895/) and Meeting ID: 379 917 7895.
* **Thursday, May 15, 2025** from 3:30–5:30 at DESE (or Virtual)

**Please see the following link on the DESE website for additional information about EPAC and EPAC Membership:** [**Educational Personnel Advisory Council - Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/councils/epac.html)