**2024-25 Educational Personnel Advisory Council**

March 30, 2025:  3:30p – 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**:

* Welcome and Member Sharing
* Alternative Licensure Pathways
	+ The [Mass Leads Act](https://www.mass.gov/economic-development-bill) that passed in November of 2024 included new language related to diversifying the educator workforce and authorizes DESE to create alternative licensure pathways that may waive **one** MTEL requirement per individual educator seeking licensure. With the flexibility of the LEADS Act, DESE can consider other ways to determine an educator’s communication and literacy skills and/or content knowledge. DESE is looking to create alternative licensure pathways using this new flexibility that are aligned to [DESE’s Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/) while continuing to promote rigorous licensure requirements to ensure that all students have access to an increasingly diverse and effective educator workforce.
	+ Please see the following new language from the bill below:
* *“Section 300(d): …The department may implement, subject to approval of the board of elementary and secondary education, an alternative certification process that may allow for a waiver of not more than 1 of the 2 tests required by section 38G of said chapter 71, per candidate, and may include consideration of factors, including, but not limited to, whether a candidate has: (i) obtained certification in another state or territory in the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as approved by the department; (ii) completed a satisfactory portfolio of items that may include student feedback or competency-based projects; (iii) obtained a master’s degree or doctorate from an accredited institution; provided that the advanced degree relates to the content area for which the individual is seeking certification, as determined by the department; (iv) successfully completed a department-approved educator preparation program for the role and at the level of the license sought; or (v) successfully completed field-based experience of not less than 2 years in the role and at the level of the license sought.”*
* DESE Update Discussion & Closing