# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner |
| **Date:** | October 22, 2024 |
| **Subject:** | Career Technical Education (CTE) Admissions Study Session - Session 1 |

In June 2021, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to amend the Career Technical Education (CTE) regulations relating to admission of students to CTE schools and programs - [603 CMR 4.03(6)(a).](https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr4.html?section=06) These admissions-related amendments addressed three primary goals:

1. Provide districts offering CTE programs with flexibility to develop data-informed local admissions policies that promote equitable access, comply with state and federal laws and regulations, and receive annual approval from the district’s school committee or board of trustees.
2. Clarify the authority of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to intervene in cases of non-compliance, and in such cases, to order changes to admissions policies that may include requiring a lottery.
3. Improve access to information about CTE for students and families.

The Board is holding two special meetings, October 28 and November 18, to review and discuss the impact of these regulatory changes. The meeting on October 28 will focus on admission and enrollment data since implementation, including a presentation from an external researcher with expertise in Massachusetts CTE admissions data. The second meeting will include stakeholder experience in implementing the 2021 regulations.

These study sessions will address a key question: *What impact has the most recent regulation change had on addressing equitable access to CTE admissions?* This information will contribute to any further changes to state regulations.

The meeting includes the following presenters and topics:

* CTE in High School Context & CTE Admission Overview

Elizabeth Bennett, Associate Commissioner for College, Career, and Technical Education

* Relevant Federal and State Legal Framework

Caitlin Looby, Counsel

* CTE School Admissions Data Overview

Rob Curtin, Chief Officer for Data, Assessment, and Accountability

* CTE Admissions Research Topics

[Shaun Dougherty](https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/lynch-school/faculty-research/faculty-directory/Shaun-Dougherty.html), Education and Policy, Boston College

I look forward to these study sessions with the Board starting this month.