# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner  |
| **Date:**  | November 12, 2024 |
| **Subject:** | Career Technical Education (CTE) Admissions Study Sessions – Sessions 2 & 3 |

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In June 2021, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to amend the 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.

We held a study session with the Board on October 28, 2024 to address the key question: ***What impact has the most recent regulation change had on addressing equitable access to CTE admissions?***

During this first study session, we focused on admission and enrollment data since the implementation of the updated regulation, including a presentation from an external researcher with expertise in Massachusetts CTE admissions data.

On November 15, we will hold a second study session with the Board to continue the conversation. During our time together, we will follow up on additional data requests from Study Session 1 and address the admissions cycle. In a third study session on November 18, we will hear from stakeholders regarding their experience in implementing the 2021 regulations. Following the study sessions, I will make a recommendation to the Board about any further changes to the regulations.

I look forward to continuing the dialogue with the Board.