# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner  |
| **Date:** | March 18, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | School Counselor of the Year |

School counselors play an essential role in preparing students to be college- and career-ready and helping meet their social and emotional needs. The school counselor’s role has greatly expanded beyond the traditional “guidance counselor” with a focus on student attendance, mental health support, and post-secondary planning. We celebrate and honor the work of all school counselors, exemplified by the Massachusetts School Counselor of the Year, **Sugeily Santos**, a 7th & 8th grade school counselor at Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain, Boston. I am delighted that Ms. Santos will join us at the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting on March 25, 2025.

Ms. Santos was honored as the 2025 School Counselor of the Year by the Massachusetts School Counselors Association (MASCA) at a surprise school assembly on Thursday, January 30, 2025, in the Curley K-8 School auditorium. Ms. Santos will represent Massachusetts as she competes with other state winners from around the country for the 2026 American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year award.

Dr. Katie Grassa, principal of Curley K-8 School, wrote this about Ms. Santos in her nomination.

Sugeily is a middle school counselor whom I hired and have watched develop into a strong educator and leader of her peers. Sugeily brings her passion for young adults, strong student connections and a willingness to always further her own learning at work each day. In my career I have hired hundreds of educators and Sugeily Santos is one of the best educators I have hired to date. Her passion, work ethic, and connections she makes with both adults and students are exceptional.

Lisa Harney, DESE’s Coordinator of Secondary Supports, and Nyal Fuentes, College and Career Readiness Specialist from our Office of College, Career, and Technical Education, will be at the Board meeting on March 25 to welcome and celebrate Ms. Santos.