September 26, 2024

Dear District Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well as you settle into a strong start to the school year.  As a follow-up to the Center for School and District Partnership (CSDP) message (attached) following the release of accountability data, I want to outline the work of the Statewide System of Support (SSoS) in assisting your district in the implementation of its priorities. The message below provides a headline of how we will be providing targeted assistance, as a preview to district-specific direct outreach you will receive from SSoS staff.

CSDP will offer a variety of [supports](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/) to districts, including financial resources, professional development, a selection of tools, etc. As an office within CSDP, the SSoS will provide targeted assistance to schools and districts identified by the following criteria: Schools in the lowest 10th percentile; schools with a federal designation; schools with student groups in the lowest 5th percentile; and schools designated as underperforming as per MGL Chapter 69 1J. Based on improvement demonstrated by the 2024 accountability results, some schools and districts will transition from SSoS support this year, and in these cases may receive transitional support, such as [Targeted Assistance Grants (TAG)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/redesign/#:~:text=Targeted%20Assistance%20Grant%20%28TAG%29%20The%20Targeted%20Assistance%20Grant,most%20pressing%20to%20facilitate%20school%20and%20district%20improvement.) or support from the [(CSDP)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/), based on district need.

**Which Schools and Districts Will Receive SSoS Support in SY2024-2025:**

The following districts will receive prioritized assistance from SSoS. Prioritized assistance means that a Regional Assistance team will be assigned to your district to support the implementation of your district’s instructional priorities:  **Athol-Royalston, Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Gardner, Greenfield, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Webster, Winchendon, Worcester.**

**What to Expect from SSoS Support**

SSoS is committed to assisting districts and schools across Massachusetts to implement systems and practices that advance equity and racial equity and result in positive outcomes and learning experiences for all students, particularly those who have been historically underserved.  To that end, the [SSoS Model](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/ssos-model.pptx) supports schools and districts that meet any of the criteria above to:

1. Identify a clear priority anchored in culturally responsive grade appropriate instruction

and sense of belonging;

1. Target support in service of those priorities, with a particular focus on supporting school and district ILTs, HQIM adoption and implementation.

The SSoS Model for support aligns with [DESE’s Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/) and is grounded in the annual  [District Instructional Priority Plan](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/prioritization/2024-0301fy25-submission-guidance.docx). SSoS’ partnership with districts (see attached Partnership Overview) and schools relies on close collaboration with key district leadership and regular visits to identified schools to support the district’s strategy for implementing its instructional priority. SSoS is committed to ensuring these collective efforts result in districts reaching their goals for improved student outcomes.

**Upcoming Communications & Resources**

**By Oct. 4**, SSoS Regional Directors will communicate with all SSoS districts to discuss and confirm reentry meetings and support plans for each district. SSoS support plans will be based on the SSoS Model, and the expectations articulated in the attached SSoS-District Partnership Overview and Assistance Calendar. Should you have any questions specific to your district, please reach out to the West/Central or Coastal regional directors:

*Districts in the West/Central Region*: Joan Tuttle (Joan.C.Tuttle@mass.gov), Tim Connor (Timothy.Connor@mass.gov)

*Districts in the Coastal Region*: Sheryl Rabbitt (Sheryl.Rabbitt@mass.gov), Dan Cosgrove (Daniel.Cosgrove@mass.gov)

Thank you for your commitment to the students in your learning communities. We are eager to support the ways in which you will lead your school communities toward positive outcomes for all students.

Sincerely,

Charmie Curry, EdD

*Associate Commissioner, Statewide System of Support*