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[Everyone] Fwd: Commissioner's Update 10 2 15

2 messages

Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 6:37 PM

Reply-To: no-reply@arlington.k12.ma.us

To: everyone@public.arlington.k12.ma.us

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From: **Reis, Jacqueline** <jreis@doe.mass.edu>

Date: Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 6:03 PM

Subject: Commissioner's Update 10 2 15

To: "Reis, Jacqueline" <jreis@doe.mass.edu>



News from Commissioner Mitchell Chester & the

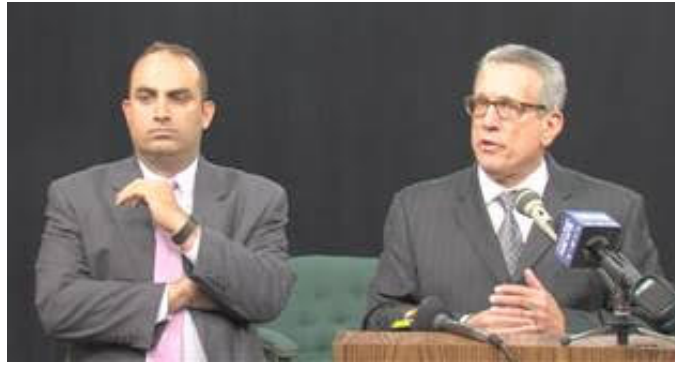
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner's Weekly Update - October 2, 2015

National Blue Ribbon Schools:

Five Massachusetts schools were among 335 [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) that the U.S. Department of Education announced this week, and four of those are public schools: [Amvet Boulevard Elementary School](#) in North Attleborough, [Lincoln Elementary School](#) in Melrose, [Pakachoag School](#) in Auburn and [Sewell-Anderson School](#) in Lynn. Each was recognized for closing achievement gaps between groups of students. In addition, Mount Alvernia Academy, a parochial school in Chestnut Hill, was recognized for high performance. Congratulations to all!

Picture of the Week:



On Thursday, Holyoke Public Schools Receiver Stephen Zrike, Jr. and Commissioner Chester announced the release of the [Holyoke Level 5 District Turnaround Plan](#). Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, who also participated in the announcement, said, "I see this plan as a positive new beginning for Holyoke students."

Assessment and Accountability Data Reporting Schedule Updated:

ESE has updated its [Assessment and Accountability Data Review and Release Schedule](#) with additional details regarding the release of 2015 school and district PARCC results and accountability determinations. The Department anticipates it will publicly announce school and district PARCC results during the second week of November, followed by accountability determinations for all schools and districts in early December. Districts and schools will have the opportunity to review preliminary data prior to any public release, as per usual practice.

Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) Data Available:

The Department released the 2015-16 school year Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) data via [Edwin Analytics](#) this week. The data identifies students in grades 1-12 as being at low, moderate or high risk of not meeting an upcoming education milestone. The data can be used to help systematically identify students who may need additional supports. To learn more about EWIS, please see the [EWIS website](#).

The Department apologizes for the delayed release this school year; unanticipated technical barriers prevented a release at the end of August, and ESE thanks everyone for their patience.

The [new, brief overview of EWIS](#) is a useful introductory communications and training tool. For copies of ESE's [Early Warning Implementation Guide](#), please email colleageandcareerreadiness@doe.mass.edu.

It is important to complete the student claiming process for all students who are new to a district or who are in a new school within a district (for example, students who were in a middle school last year and are in a high school this year). Claiming students in the correct schools will ensure that the EWIS reports reflect the student population. Individuals with questions about student claiming can e-mail edwinanalytics@doe.mass.edu.

Support for October Data Collections:

The Department is implementing changes to the data collection support structure in light of reductions in staffing. Districts are no longer assigned to specific data collection support specialists. Instead, the following mechanisms for support will be used:

- For SIMS, EPIMS, SCS and SDDR questions, please submit a ticket from our [Contact Us page](#). From the subject drop-down box, please choose **Data Collection Support**. In the comments section, please provide as much detail as possible to allow staff to answer the question or assist with the issue. **PLEASE NOTE: The information within these forms is not secure. If referencing a student, please do not submit any**

identifying characteristics other than the SASID. The Department will process requests as promptly as possible, and staff is being asked to respond to direct emails with a request to use this ticketing process instead.

- To speak to a data collection staff member, please call [\(781\) 338-6777](tel:781-338-6777). This is a general phone line that will be answered by all members of the team.

Space Still Available for Fall Convening:

Registration links for the [Annual Fall Convening](#) (formerly known as the Summit on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) have been sent directly to district leaders. District staff who are interested in attending should contact their superintendent to register before Oct. 9.

The convening will be held at 8 a.m. Oct. 27 and repeated at 8 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Marlboro. School district and charter school superintendents are invited to select a district team of no more than eight people to attend one of the days. Educational collaboratives and publicly-funded private schools are invited to send teams of no more than three people.

Breakout session topics will include creativity and innovation, educator evaluation standards to drive high-quality instruction, early literacy, social and emotional learning and its impact on student learning, the ESL model curriculum project, inclusive instruction, student engagement and success through the arts, service learning, common assessments, wraparound zones, and the urban/suburban collaboration between Lowell and Lexington.

Reminder about Anti-Hazing Law Requirements:

Each secondary school principal is required to certify annually on or before Oct. 1 that the school has met the requirements of the anti-hazing law. By Nov. 1, ESE must notify the attorney general of any school that has not fulfilled this obligation. Information related to this requirement as well as the forms necessary to complete a school's Anti-Hazing Report are [available online](#).

Schools should send the Anti-Hazing Report directly to pqaantihazing@doe.mass.edu or fax it to [\(781\) 338-3710](tel:781-338-3710). Schools are not required to submit the Student Group Anti-Hazing Form but should keep the form for their records. For more information, please contact Nermina Peric at [\(781\) 338-3708](tel:781-338-3708) or Sandra Wellens at [\(781\) 338-3726](tel:781-338-3726).

Reducing Regulatory Burden:

In accordance with Governor Baker's Executive Order [EO562](#), ESE has begun a thorough assessment of its regulations with a view toward reducing burden and improving efficiency. As part of ESE's review, the agency will consider written comments. All comments are welcome. To submit a written comment, go to the online [portal of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance](#), send an email to ESERegsReview@doe.mass.edu, or address a letter to ESE Regulations Review, C/O Helene Bettencourt, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02148.

For Your Info:

- **New PARCC resource for parents:** In preparation for the individual student PARCC scores that will go out later this year, PARCC has launched UnderstandtheScore.org, a website designed to help families understand their child's results on the spring 2015 assessments. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will decide next month whether to adopt PARCC.

- **Preschool expansion grants:** Last month, the Department of Early Education and Care announced that Boston, Lawrence, Lowell and Springfield received a combined total of more than \$14 million in federally-funded [preschool expansion grants](#). Gov. Baker visited Holyoke last month, and the Lawrence announcement is featured in this [video](#).
- **Up this month:** October is [National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month](#) and [National Principals Month](#).

Subscriber Information: Superintendents, principals, and charter school leaders will receive the update automatically. For others wishing to subscribe, send an email to imailsrv@list1.doe.mass.edu with the following information in the body of the email: subscribe ESEUpdate Your Name. (*Example: subscribe ESEUpdate John Smith*) To unsubscribe, send an email to the same address with the following information in the body: unsubscribe ESEUpdate Your Name. (*Example: unsubscribe ESEUpdate John Smith*)

Jacqueline Reis

Media Relations Coordinator

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Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us> Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 6:37 PM
To: Cindy Starks <Cindy.Starks@verizon.net>, Cindy Starks <cindy@starks-hopeman.net>, Jeff Thielman <jeff.thielman@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Thielman <jthielman@crestoreyboston.org>, Jennifer Susse <jennifer.susse@gmail.com>, Judson Pierce <jpierce@ppnlaw.com>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Tassone <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathy Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsi Allison-Ampi <kirsi@allisonampe.org>, Paul Schlichtman <paul@schlichtman.org>, Paul Schlichtman <PSchlichtman@lowell.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <bill_hayner@comcast.net>

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