

# Superintendent's Update

- Elementary Hybrid – Continuing Forward
  - January 25<sup>th</sup> Parent Conferences/ Asynchronous for Students
  - Initial Review of assessments does not indicate widespread learning loss
- MHS In-Person Orientation Days & Winter Athletics in progress
- MHS Hybrid Official Start 1/19
  - Regular busing schedules resume 1.19
  - PSATS 1.26 will be a remote day for those not taking test
- COVID Conditions Monitor
  - Regular Meetings and check-ins w/ BOH Reps and Health Team
- Surveillance Testing – Evolving
  - DESE Initiative Launched
  - May be a better fit for cost, organization and timeline – continuing to evaluate
- COVID-19 Vaccine
  - School Nurses Tier 1 – Beginning This Week
  - K-12 Educators Tier 2 / Group 2 – February to April

# Superintendent's Update

- **MCAS**

**Modify the Competency Determination for the Class of 2021:** The recommended modification would allow students to receive their CD by passing an approved course and demonstrating competency in that subject in lieu of a qualifying MCAS score. Seniors who still want to take the tests may take them later this school year. Members of the class of 2021 will have opportunities to receive additional academic support this spring and summer.

**Shortened MCAS Testing Time for Grades 3-8:** The Department will significantly reduce testing time for students in grades 3-8 through a session sampling approach in which each student will take only a portion of each MCAS assessment in each subject. This modified MCAS administration will preserve the validity and reliability of the test at the school, district, and state levels. When combined with other data points, this approach will provide meaningful diagnostic data at the individual student level.

**Accountability Relief:** Commissioner Riley will not name or recommend to the Board any new underperforming or chronically underperforming districts or schools in the upcoming school year. The Department will also consider any available flexibilities provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

- **Stress, Resilience, and Self-Care for Manchester Essex Educators on the Front Lines**

Facilitator: Windi Bowditch, LMHC

This virtual workshop is focused on identifying the many factors of our current world that can contribute to toxic stress amongst adults, especially those who work with youth. We will review the impact it can have on our brains and overall functioning, and how to best take care of ourselves, build resilience, and utilize effective coping strategies to navigate these difficult times.