

MASSACHUSETTS ADMINISTRATORS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION



OCTOBER 18, 2019 Statewide Conference
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts



***“Starting the New School Year Strong and Informed: What
Special Education Administrators and School Teams Need to Know”***



KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

***“Our Way Forward:” Moving Massachusetts Schools Forward to
Greater Achievement for All Massachusetts Students***

KEYNOTE FOCUS:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Riley will discuss findings from his year-long listening tour with Massachusetts students, teachers, parents and education leaders and the four themes highlighted in his report ***“Our Way Forward.”*** Additionally, Commissioner Riley will highlight areas of DESE’s strategic plan that will move the scope of DESE’s regulatory responsibilities to a partnership model with school districts. The Keynote will provide an understanding on the Commissioner’s vision and the DESE’s support to all Massachusetts students, including students with disabilities, to greater achievement.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER:

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey C. Riley



***Supporting the Whole Child through Social-Emotional Learning and
Positive Learning Environments***

SESSION FOCUS:

A large and growing body of research demonstrates that success in life requires both academic and social-emotional skills. When young people develop these interconnected sets of competencies, they are more likely to be healthy, engaged in their communities, financially secure, and empowered to pursue goals of their own choosing.

Drawing from this research, TransformEd has worked with schools and districts serving over 1,000,000 students across more than 20 states to support whole child development. They focus on both the classroom practices and the district-wide systems needed to help every student thrive, particularly those students who are underserved.

Sara Krachman will share insights and lessons learned from TransformEd’s work in Massachusetts and beyond. She will address some of the common issues and concerns about social-emotional learning (SEL) and share actionable strategies that teachers and leaders can use to support whole child development in their own districts.

PRESENTER:

Sara Krachman is the Founder & Executive Director of Transforming Education, a non-profit that supports educators in fostering the development of the whole child. Sara is an author and strategic advisor to large school districts and national foundations.



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PLENARY SESSION:

“Legal and Legislative Matters Matter:” Updates, Examples of Special Education Legislation - and ASE’s Advocacy - Special Education Administrative Needs

SESSION FOCUS:

The Massachusetts Legislative process continued its strong focus on special education during the early summer months. This program segment will highlight current legal and legislative updates, as well as recent proposed and enacted legislation effecting school communities and students. Additionally, the session will provide an overview of “hot topics in special education law” to provide you and your special education teams with proactive approaches to begin the new school year. Discussion will focus on strategies and techniques for advocacy for student and school district needs and ASE’s strategies on your behalf! Together we can and do make a difference!

PRESENTER:

Paige Tobin, Esq., Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, PC., legal and legislative expert in special education, counsel to Massachusetts school districts and consultant to the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education (ASE)



BREAKOUT SESSION

Secondary Transition: Envisioning the Way Forward

SESSION FOCUS:

Commissioner Riley’s report to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Our Way Forward*, sets out a new roadmap for Massachusetts so that we prepare all students for “the expectations they will encounter in college, in their careers, and as citizens navigating a complex world. This presentation will highlight intersections between *Our Way Forward* and secondary transition, and share news on DESE and interagency initiatives. Topics will include:

- ✓ Student vision and self-determination – including the latest news on student-led IEPs – as a driver of student engagement
- ✓ Meaningful transition assessment and innovative assessment design
- ✓ Connecting students to learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- ✓ Conditions for deeper learning: school schedules, cross-teacher sharing, evidence-based practices, and professional development
- ✓ Leveraging general education resources, including updates on High Quality Career Pathways, My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP), Industry-Recognized Credentials, and the College Career Advising (CCA) Initiative
- ✓ Engaging families as true partners, including through DESE’s new Family Engagement initiative
- ✓ New joint DESE/MRC guidance on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- ✓ Networks and collaborations: adult agencies and interagency teams

PRESENTER:

Amanda Green, Secondary Transition Coordinator, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and potential guest presenter, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)



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BREAKOUT SESSION

The Ever Emerging IEP: The Realities, the Changes, the Nuances to Increasing Student Outcomes

SESSION FOCUS:

The IEP is a road map to individualized instruction for students with disabilities who are eligible for specially designed education instruction. As such, school teams need to keep current with formulating the IEP for student instructional needs. This can oftentimes be a complex and confusing process.

This session will focus on the 3 areas of the IEP that are essential to specially designed instruction. Participants will leave the presentation with an enhanced understanding of updated information for IEP development, specially-designed instruction, how the three areas connect on the IEP and instruction, including strategies and techniques to improve team decision making.

Learning goals for this session will focus on:

- ✓ *Difference between accommodations and modifications*
- ✓ *Reasonably determined goals and focus areas*

PPRESENTER:

Allan Blume, Ed.S. Associate Professor (Retired), Special Educator, and Educational Consultant. He has been a speaker at regional, state and national conferences.



BREAKOUT SESSION

A Dual Presentation: Special Education Team, Student and School Focus

TITLES:

- ✓ *When the Attorneys Come A-Knockin at Team Meeting and Mediation Sessions*
- ✓ *When Students with Disabilities are Adversely Affected by Social Media - School Responsibility*

DESCRIPTOR: Preparing for Team Meetings and Mediation when parents and school attorneys show up can be difficult for school teams and parents. When Students are adversely affected by bullying/social media ... In both situations, school teams must be prepared with new and effective 'tools' to proactively respond to parent attorneys and student needs vis a vis social media.

This session will provide strategies and techniques for:

- ✓ Enhancing your team's participation for positive responses to attorney questions
- ✓ Breaking down the barriers in team meetings to influence proactive discussions between school teams and parent attorneys
- ✓ Understanding what parent attorneys look for at a school team meeting
- ✓ Social Media, its effects on students, especially students with disabilities, and addressing the issue on IEPs
- ✓ Understanding Students' Responses to Bullying and Harassment/Social Media
- ✓ Providing Proactive Responses to Students with Disabilities relating to Bullying/ Harassment and Social Media-- including understanding school legal accountabilities

PRESENTERS:

Atty. Paige Tobin, Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, PC, counsel to Massachusetts School Districts and
Atty. Tim Sindelar, Education lawyer special education counsel to families



October 18, 2019

Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education Statewide Conference Schedule:

Buffet Breakfast: 8:00 am – 8:55 am

Program Begins: 9:00am

Program Ends: *Approximately 2:30 pm*

