





**Recorded Virtual Session:**  
Unraveling the Potential of Artificial  
Intelligence in K-12 Special Education


# STATEWIDE SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE


Topic :

As the new school  
year progresses, what  
special education  
leaders and school  
teams need to know

 November 2, 2023

 Check-in, Continental Breakfast 7:45  
PROGRAM 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Light lunch will be served

 ASL Interpretation

 GPS:  
Hogan Center at Holy Cross  
(1 College St. Worcester)

*Hogan Center Parking Lot: Park in any available spot.*



KEYNOTE

**Jeffrey C. Riley**

Commissioner of  
Elementary and Secondary  
Education (DESE)



SPEAKER

**Jean Lindquist-Grady,  
Psy.D.**

Addressing Problematic Sexual  
Behavior within a School



SPEAKER

**Rita Schiano**

Developing Resilience



SPEAKER

**Russell Johnston,  
Ph.D.**

Deputy Commissioner and  
State Director of Special  
Education (DESE)



SPEAKER

**Paige Tobin, Esq.  
Murphy, Lamere  
and Murphy, PC**

Special Education:  
Legal Insights

## ASE and MAAPS CONFERENCE COLLABORATION

MA Administrators of Special Education  
MA Association of Approved Special Education Schools





KEYNOTE

## Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

### AS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR PROGRESSES, WHAT SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS AND SCHOOL TEAMS NEED TO KNOW

Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), was appointed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as the state's 24th commissioner of elementary and secondary education in 2018. A Massachusetts native, Mr. Riley's experience spans urban and suburban districts. In January 2012, Commissioner Riley was appointed superintendent/receiver of the Lawrence Public Schools, where he served for more than six years prior to being named Commissioner of DESE.



SPEAKER

## Jean Lindquist-Grady Psy.D.

[lindquistgradyj@worcesterschools.org](mailto:lindquistgradyj@worcesterschools.org)

### ADDRESSING PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIOR WITHIN A SCHOOL

FOCUS:

School responses to children/youth with problematic sexual behaviors

Topics will include: Understanding that there is a spectrum of sexual behaviors (normal/expected - problematic) based on a developmental model (very brief); A quick "how to respond" for Teachers/Staff/Administration that both validates the concern while preserving the dignity of the student.; Tiered Interventions for students which can include skill acquisition versus application and the SIRC model. Collaborating with community-based support; what services are out there for our children/youth?



SPEAKER

## Rita Schiano

[rita@ritaschiano.com](mailto:rita@ritaschiano.com)

### BOUNCING BACK THROUGH RESILIENCE CAPACITY: STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS AND TEAMS

FOCUS:

Resilience strategist Rita Schiano will examine key strategies for building a team with resilience capacity. Areas explored include the following topics and strategies:

- Reflection and learning
- Uncovering problematic latent conditions
- Effective and respectful intrateam communication
- Encouraging and engaging in self-care



SPEAKER

**Russell Johnston  
Ph.D.**

[russell.johnston@state.ma.us](mailto:russell.johnston@state.ma.us)

## **ACCESS, EQUITY AND INCLUSION-- ENSURING OPTIMUM OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

This session will provide a focused discussion on access, equity and inclusion for Massachusetts students with disabilities. It will highlight DESE initiatives and trends in Massachusetts, including examples of policies and practices that foster a strong school culture of embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion for students and staff across a continuum of services.



SPEAKER

**Paige Tobin, Esq.  
Murphy, Lamere and  
Murphy, PC**

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION: LEGAL INSIGHTS – WHAT ARE THE COURTS TELLING US? LEGAL TRENDS FROM THE BSEA AND FIRST CIRCUIT**

FOCUS:

This session will discuss current trends and themes critical to special education coming from the BSEA and the First Circuit. A robust discussion of new cases and how the decisions will impact your work as a special education administrator. Also, a special focus on how to read and understand a federal court case.



## **UNRAVELING THE POTENTIAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Learn more about artificial intelligence (AI) and specifically how AI impacts special education in K-12. We will delve into various domains of AI's impact, such as personalized learning, intelligent tutoring systems, automated grading, and student analytics, and discuss specifically how AI impacts special education. Discover how AI empowers educators, enhances student learning experiences, and streamlines administrative tasks, paving the way for a more efficient, effective, and inclusive educational environment.

This **\*BONUS\*** virtual session will be held live, via zoom, one week from the conference (zoom invite to be emailed to all registrants). If you can't attend live, you will still receive the recorded session to view on your own time!

Presented by: Adele Smolansky AI-Learners CEO & Founder ([www.ai-learners.com](http://www.ai-learners.com))  
[as2953@cornell.edu](mailto:as2953@cornell.edu)