
Event Agenda

MASC/MASS 2025 Joint Conference

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Registration Open

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Exhibitor Registration

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Location: Bass River

Welcoming Schools. Welcoming Classrooms.

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Cape Cod

Creating welcoming classrooms and schools is crucial for fostering inclusive environments where all students, especially those from marginalized communities, can thrive. These spaces not only support academic growth but also nurture emotional wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

Speakers



Kevin McIntyre

Superintendent | Milford Public Schools



Caridad Lopez

Principal | Stacy Middle School - Milford



Delia Duran

Principal | Esperanza Academy - Milford

Adversary or Ally: Working with Municipal Boards

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Hyannisport West

Working with the municipal side can sometimes feel like you're in opposition rather than working together for the students in your community. Presenters will discuss best practices for working with your municipal side that put you on the same side

Speakers



Liz Lafond

Field Director | MASC



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC

MassCUE: A Glimpse into the Classroom of Tomorrow

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Hyannisport East

Join MassCUE leaders and hear how today's innovations are reshaping classrooms and influencing the policy decisions that guide them. Presenters will provide an industry outlook that connects the rapid evolution of technology with the pressing priorities of school leadership and governance.

This highly engaging session will showcase live demonstrations that go beyond theory. Experience immersive Virtual and Augmented reality (XR) content and witness Artificial Intelligence (AI) in action through cutting-edge tools. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how these technologies can impact student learning, educator practice, and district operations, while also considering the policy frameworks and leadership strategies needed to integrate them responsibly. Leave inspired with insights to help your district prepare for the classroom of tomorrow, today.

Speakers



Leo Brehm

Past President, MassCUE | Medfield School Committee



Grace Magley

Executive Director | MassCUE



Andrea Calvin

Director of Operations | MassCUE

Normalization of Hate: How Schools and Communities can Respond

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Barnstable II

While name-calling, bullying and harassment are nothing new, the normalization of harmful language and behaviors, and the politicization of prevention and intervention policies and plans are contributing to unprecedented challenges in our schools. This interactive session will explore the normalization and politicization; examine the subsequent challenges that schools and communities are facing; and identify strategies to address those challenges.

Speakers



Michelle Bodin-Hettinger

School Committee Member | Marlborough



Phil Fogelman

Founder | Changemakers for Good



William Ballen

Professional Development Coordinator | Berkshire Educational Resources K-12

Roles and Responsibilities

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Barnstable III

Covering the basics. MASC Field Directors will review which leadership, governance, and management roles belong to the Committee - and which ones do not - to help you understand your roles and responsibilities as a Committee member. subsequent challenges that schools and communities are facing; and identify strategies to address those challenges

Speaker



Sean Costello

Field Director | MASC

Recruiting Highly Effective Teachers

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Centerville

Students who do not receive quality instruction may face long-term educational setbacks, affecting their readiness for higher education and the workforce. This can perpetuate cycles of underachievement and limit opportunities. Research consistently shows that effective teachers have a significant impact on student learning. Learn how some MA school districts are recruiting and retaining highly effective teachers to support critical areas, including ESL, Spanish, Dual Language Education, SPED, and math and science among others.

Speakers



Denise Hurst

School Committee Member | Springfield



Sergio Paez

CEO | Global Education Solutions

Strategic Investments in K-12 Leadership: Developing Your Principal's Leadership for Equitable Post-Secondary Outcomes and Sustainable Systemic Change

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Orleans

This session will explore the pivotal role of effective K-12 leadership in driving student success, promoting college and career readiness, and advancing equitable opportunities for all students. Research highlights that the impact of principals on student outcomes is nearly as significant as that of individual teachers. This session will introduce a three-tiered framework for high quality leadership development.

Speakers



Adam Seidel

Deputy Director | OneGoal



John Boumgarden

Postsecondary Leadership Coach | OneGoal

Empowering Mental Health Leaders: Building Comprehensive Support Systems in Schools

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Osterville A

As student mental health needs continue to rise, school systems must shift from reactive responses to proactive, coordinated support structures. This session explores why it is critical for districts to examine how they are addressing student mental health and well-being, and how school and district staff can serve as system-level leaders and change agents in developing comprehensive school mental health systems. Learn about the critical role of prevention—emphasizing practices that support student well-being before a crisis arises, and how districts can move toward a more coordinated approach to identifying and addressing student mental health needs

Speakers



Stephen Alkins, Jr.

DEI (and Belonging) Officer | TERC



John Crocker

Director, Mental Health & Behavioral Services | Methuen Public Schools



Margie Daniels

Executive Director | MA Partnerships for Youth



Amanda Chung

Senior Associate | Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy

Lunch & Featured Session: Telling Our District's Story: Communication Strategies to Build Confidence in Schools

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom

Speaker



Chris Horan

President | Horan Communications

How do you Know Mastery When You See It?

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Cape Cod

District leaders are exploring new ways for students to demonstrate mastery of content and skills. Learn how traditional assessments are being transformed into powerful tools for deeper learning and equity to support district goals. In Milford, middle school educators are redesigning assessments to boost student engagement, agency, and accessibility. In Attleboro, CTE teachers are sharpening the rigor and relevance of their assessments, aligning them with both technical and academic standards; and elementary educators are curating math portfolios of performance assessments. Both districts belong to the Massachusetts for Innovative Education Assessment.

Speakers



Julie Spencer-Robinson

Head of Strategy and Operations | MCIEA



Meghan Hornberger

School Committee Member | Milford



Craig Consigli

Superintendent | Milford Public Schools



Alissa Holland

Instructional Coach, Stacy Middle School | Milford Public Schools

Laurie Regan

Assistant Superintendent | Attleboro Public Schools



Joe Amaral

President | Attleboro Education Association



Stephanie Perches

Educator | Attleboro Public Schools



Sara Barney

Educator | Attleboro Public Schools

From Plans to Practice: Funding, Responding, and Sustaining School Mental Health Systems

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

As student mental health needs rise, sustainable school-based solutions require more than good intentions—they demand integrated planning, funding, and crisis response systems. This session will showcase practical strategies used by MA school districts, in collaboration with the BIRCh Center, to build stronger mental and behavioral health supports. Attendees will hear about a free School Mental Health Plan Toolkit, a Medicaid-funded project designed to boost reimbursement for mental health services, and scalable crisis response models anchored in evidence-based training like PrePaRE workshop 2. Participants will leave with actionable tools, funding pathways, and proven approaches.

Speakers



Ashley Niggle Aguiar

Central MA TA Center Director | BIRCh Center



Kathryn Kurtz

Project Director | BIRCh Center



Sara Whitcomb

Co-Director | BIRCh Center



Melissa Pearrow

Executive Director | BIRCh Center



Bethany Nichols

Western MA TA Center Director | BIRCh Center

Collective Bargaining: Challenges in Negotiating Health Insurance

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

Employee and retiree health insurance continue to be areas of significant financial concern. This session explores the differing roles of districts in bargaining health insurance benefits as well as collective bargaining strategies to deal with rising costs.

Speakers



Patrick Francomano

Legal Counsel | MASC



Joshua Coleman

Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, P.C.



Susan Shillue

Managing Director | Hilb Group



Fred Turkington

Town Administrator | Town of Sharon



Andy Powell

Field Representative | AFT

Using Data to Close the Achievement Gap

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Barnstable II

Learn how to find and use public data and resources to identify gaps in educational opportunities and achievement for historically marginalized student groups, including students with disabilities, English learners, and racial and ethnic minorities. Learn how to view trends over time, compare your district with others, and explore how data can inform your educational programs and policymaking

Speakers



Danielle Kane

Outreach and Engagement | MA Education to Career Research and Data Hub



Katrina Delaney

School Committee Member | Pembroke Public Schools



Sam Ribnick

Executive Director | E2C Hub



Jen Weedon

School Committee Member | Duxbury

Understanding the Problem Resolution System

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Barnstable III

DESE's Problem Resolution System (PRS) is responsible for receiving and resolving complaints when someone believes a school or district is not following education laws or regulations. Learn how individuals can file a complaint, what happens during the investigation process, and how PRS ensures that schools and districts take appropriate steps to comply with the law. The session will highlight how school committees and superintendents can proactively respond to concerns and avoid compliance issues. By understanding the PRS process and types of complaints most commonly filed, school leaders can strengthen local policies and procedures, ensure staff are well-informed about legal requirements, and maintain strong partnerships with families and community members

Speakers



Carrie Greene

School Committee Member | Mount Greylock Regional



Julie Garell

Supervisor | PRS



Kelsey LoDuca-Towne

Director | PRS

School Committee/Superintendent Relations

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Centerville

A positive, productive working relationship between the School Committee and the Superintendent is a critical element of providing for student achievement. Join us for a conversation on strategies and best practices that help cultivate, maintain, and grow that relationship.

Speakers



Sean Costello

Field Director | MASC



Lara Brait

School Committee Member | Marshfield Public Schools



Jeff Granatino

Former Superintendent | Marshfield Public Schools

Cracking the Code: Regional School Finance & Transportation

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Osterville A

Running a regional school district comes with its own set of puzzles. Learn the laws, regulations, and best practices related to budgets and assessments, stabilization and transportation, E&D, and more to stay compliant, efficient, and resourceful!

Speakers



Charlie Ellis

School Committee Member | Nashoba Valley Regional Voc-Tech



Maureen Marshall

Executive Director | MA Assoc. of Regional Schools (MARS)



Stephanie Fisk

Retired Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations | Gateway Regional



Christine Lynch

Governance and Facilities Program Manager | DESE



Jay Sullivan

Associate Commissioner, School Finance | DESE

We're in this Together: Successful Overrides

1:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Osterville B

Join districts that have recently been successful in passing overrides to support their schools. Learn what worked, what didn't, and what strategies you can bring back to your district.

Speakers



Tracy Novick

MASC



Heidi Gutekenst

School Committee Member | Belchertown Public Schools



Dan Gale

Director of Finance and Operations | Hudson Public Schools



Jacob Hulseberg

School Committee Member | Belchertown Public Schools



Brian Cameron

Superintendent | Belchertown Public Schools



Christopher Yates

School Committee Member | Hudson



Brian Reagan

Superintendent | Hudson Public Schools

Exhibit Hall Opens

2:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: Bass River

Stronger Together: Building a High-Impact Partnership With Your Education Collaborative

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Cape Cod

Successful districts know that the most powerful outcomes happen when relationships come first. This session invites superintendents and school committee members to explore how an intentional, student-centered partnership with your education collaborative can create lasting impact. We'll focus on building trust, fostering open communication, and aligning shared goals to support students in the least restrictive environment (LRE)—all while using resources efficiently

Speakers



Margaret Driscoll

Executive Director | MASBO



Joanne Haley-Sullivan

Executive Director | MA Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC)



Catherine Lawson

Education Professional | SEEM collaborative



Greg Zammuto

Director of Finance and Operations | SEEM collaborative



Patrick Daly

Superintendent | North Reading Public Schools



Pamela Girouard

Executive Director | LABBB Collaborative



Robert Alconada

Director of Finance and Operations | LABBB Collaborative



Dede Galdston

Superintendent | Watertown Public Schools

Prompt and Personable: Activate your On-Call AI Colleague

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

Imagine a colleague who could brainstorm instantly, write without ego, and never sleeps. Learn how prompt design and creative personas can transform AI into a helpful, powerful collaborator. You don't need to be a techie to work with AI. All you need is curiosity, the internet, and a willingness to try.

Speakers



Stephanie Clougherty

School Committee Member | Carver



Casey Daigle

Digital learning Manager | Collaborative for Educational Services

Legislative Update

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

What's happening on Beacon Hill, and how can you influence it? Join presenters for a conversation on effective advocacy at the State House, and how you can be a voice for your district with your legislators. The session will examine the legislative process, two-year cycle, current legislation, and what could be on the horizon.

Speakers



Anthony Andronico

Operations and Public Affairs Director | MASC



Jason Fraser

School Committee Member | Plympton | Silver Lake Regional



Sean Costello

Field Director | MASC

Modular Classrooms

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM

When your district is in need of space, modular construction can be an efficient way to expand quickly. Join us for a discussion with districts who have used modular construction. We will talk about the pros, the cons, and the comically large scissors used to cut those ribbons on opening day!

Speakers



Charlie Ellis

School Committee Member | Nashoba Valley Regional Voc-Tech



Denise Pigeon

Superintendent | Nashoba Valley Technical School District

Executive Coaching

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Barnstable III

This session introduces the essentials of the evidence-based Columbia University framework for leadership coaching. Distinct from, yet complementary to, consulting or content based support, executive coaching engenders co-created, professional relationships that yield action steps and learning. The CU model emphasizes a client-based agenda that is chiefly about discovery, awareness and choice; it

empowers leaders to find their own answers to the highly complex challenges and opportunities that new and experienced superintendents and school committees face daily. Focusing on context, content, and conduct, this session will help leaders and teams explore their professional and personal goals to enhance their practice as well as district outcomes.

Speaker



Jeff Young

Program Director, PK-12 Education Leadership & Policy Studies | Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human...

Do We Have to Meet Until Midnight?

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Centerville

Do your committee meetings go on...and on...and on? They don't have to! Join MASC Field Directors for a discussion of best practices for business meetings that are effective and efficient

Speakers



Tracy Novick

MASC



Liz Lafond

Field Director | MASC



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC

Bussing, Budgets, and School Attendance Solutions: Hot Topics with MA Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Orleans

Join fellow communities who are using MA SRTS's resources to meet restricted bussing, increased family traffic, and national challenges to help our students safely travel to and from school.

Speakers



Michelle Bodin-Hettinger

School Committee Member | Marlborough



Judith Crocker

Statewide Coordinator and Outreach Supervisor | MA Safe Routes to School



Jason DeFalco

Superintendent | Marlborough Public Schools

Regional Meeting Follow-Up

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Osterville A

A follow-up to the earlier session. Come join the conversation.

Speaker



Maureen Marshall

Executive Director | MA Assoc. of Regional Schools (MARS)

Getting the Message Right During a Crisis

3:25 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Osterville B

From library books and mascots, to hateful messages and harmful behavior, during these challenging, politicized, and polarizing times, properly or improperly managing crisis communications can mean the difference between having a satisfied group of stakeholders and wondering where things went wrong. Learn the importance of having a strong communications strategy and plan in place for your district for when a crisis strikes.

Speakers



Justin Bartholomew

Superintendent, | Pentucket Regional



Paul Zinni

Director of Education, Training and Development /Retired School Superintendent | John Guilfoil Public Relations



Rich Drolet

Superintendent | King Philip Regional School District



Jim Lehan

School Committee Member | King Philip Regional School District



Maureen Cohen

Superintendent | Mendon-Upton Regional School District



Gary Burboa-Reese

Assistant Superintendent | NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



William Collins

Superintendent | Lenox Public Schools

Exhibitor Reception

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: Bass River

Keynote Dinner (Ticketed Event)

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom

Speakers



Devin Sheehan

School Committee Member | Holyoke



Karen Crebase

President | MASS



Pedro Martinez

Commissioner | DESE

Meet Your Colleagues Social

9:00 PM – 11:59 PM | Location: Bogeys

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Bass River

Registration Open

7:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Building the Future: The Vital Role of Construction Craft Laborers Program in CTE Schools

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Cape Cod

New England Laborers' representatives will speak about their journey creating construction career pathways over the last 20 years. In the early 2000s the New England Laborers' Training Trust fund was tasked with creating the Construction Craft Laborers' Chapter 74 program. This program would give high school students an opportunity to learn their craft and create a pipeline into the Laborers' International Union of North America upon graduation. Since its inception these programs have grown across MA, RI, and CT, which has given dozens of young adults a lifelong career within the union.

General Session: Breaking the Spell of High Conflict

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom

Speaker



Amanda Ripley

Journalist & best-selling NYT Author

Coffee Break with Exhibitors

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM | Location: Bass River

Current Issues & Developments in Education Law

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Cape Cod

A panel of attorneys, including MASC General Counsel, will discuss recent and pending state and federal rulings and legal trends that impact MA school districts. This session will review the most recent US Supreme Court cases that present challenges for MA school districts.

Speakers



Patrick Francomano

Legal Counsel | MASC



Marc Terry

School Committee Member | Ashland Public Schools



Kelly Gonzalez

MASS General Counsel | Long, DiPietro & Gonzalez

Making Sense—and Ensuring Safety—of AI Use

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the world, and education is at the center of this transformation. This session will explore both the pitfalls and possibilities of AI, with a particular focus on how parents, educators, and communities can work together to guide students in using this powerful technology both safely and productively.

Speakers



Glenn Koocher

Executive Director | MASC



Jeff Riley

Former Commissioner of Education | MA DESE

Behind the Wheel: What Every Superintendent & School Committee Should Know About Student Transportation

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

Student transportation is one of the most visible — and often misunderstood — parts of school operations. Go beyond the yellow bus to explore how transportation works in your district: from budgeting and staffing to laws and regulations. We'll tackle tough questions from the public, debunk common myths, and leave with tools to improve communication and oversight

Speakers



Margaret Driscoll

Executive Director | MASBO



Colleen Cavanaugh

Executive Director | MA Association of Pupil Transportation

Subcommittees 101

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Barnstable II

Subcommittees can help your committee and your district. Join this review of how subcommittees are formed, meeting requirements, and share some examples of subcommittees that your committee can use to make your work more efficient.

Speakers



Liz Lafond

Field Director | MASC



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC

Funding Collaborative School Facilities: Meeting Urgent Needs

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Barnstable III

For over 50 years, MA Educational Collaboratives have delivered vital special education services to students with complex needs. As demand for these services has grown—from 8.3% of students in 1975 to over 20% today—Collaboratives have become essential in providing high-quality, cost-effective support across districts. Nevertheless, many Collaborative facilities are outdated and underfunded. Unlike districts and charter schools, Collaboratives lack access to state funding for capital projects, relying instead on tuition-based funding approved by member districts. Learn about current advocacy efforts to secure state support for collaborative facility improvements to ensure students continue to receive the services they deserve in safe, modern spaces—without overburdening local budgets.

Speakers



Joanne Haley-Sullivan

Executive Director | MA Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC)



Fran Rosenberg

Superintendent | Northshore Education Consortium



Robert Jokela

Executive Director | CREST Collaborative



Brian Forget

Superintendent | Triton Regional School District



Catherine Cooper

Superintendent | Southeastern MA Educational Collaborative



Chris Oliver

School Committee Member | Dartmouth

Developing and Maintaining Leadership Strength in the Midst of Unpredictability, Anxiety, and Distress

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Centerville

Learn about the BANI (brittle, anxious, nonlinear, and incomprehensible) leadership framework to understand how specific mindset shifts result in behavioral changes that promote stronger, more resilient teams even during unpredictable times.

Speakers



Nadja Lopez

Executive Director | Center for Behavioral Health, Equity and Leadership in Schools—William James College



Renee Heywood,

Educational Consultant | William James College



Andrea Ellis

Educational Consultant | William James College

Communicating Through Crisis and Controversy

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Osterville A

How prepared are the Superintendent and School Committee to respond effectively when crises and controversies arise? When faced with budget cuts, divisive policy debates, personnel matters, and other unexpected issues, effective communication can “make or break” the situation. A veteran K-12 communications strategist will provide practical tips for communicating with families, staff, the community, and the media about difficult topics.

Speakers



Tina Games

School Committee Member | Monomoy Regional



Chris Horan

President | Horan Communications

Vocational Issues Update

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Osterville B

Vocational leaders will engage technical school board members and superintendents on what to expect over the next 1-3 years as issues like enrollment, finance, and innovation arise

Speakers



Charlie Ellis

School Committee Member | Nashoba Valley Regional Voc-Tech



Steve Sharek

Executive Director | MAVA

MASC Division VIII Meeting

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Osterville B

Buffet Networking Lunch (Ticketed Event)

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom

Ice Cream Social with Exhibitors

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM | Location: Bass River

Registration Open

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Policy Development for Non-Policy People

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Cape Cod

Policies are the foundation school districts operate on. We will break down the process MASC uses to develop policies and demystify the policy adoption process.

Speakers



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC



Liz Lafond

Field Director | MASC

Modernizing MTSS for Student Mental Health

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

Current systems of support within schools and pediatric mental health systems do not always meet student needs. Learn how a fourth tier of student support can be created to meet student needs and share connected outcomes (access to care, attendance, academics, financial).

Speakers



Lauren Nassif

School Committee Member | Medway Public Schools



Armand Pires

Superintendent | Medway Public Schools



Ryan Sherman

Director of Wellness | Medway Public Schools

Social Media

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

Join a discussion on school committee and district use of social media: why you should use it, what you should avoid, and where to ensure you're following best practices.

Speaker



Tracy Novick

MASC

Ensuring Newcomers' Academic and Social-Emotional Well-Being

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Barnstable II

In this interactive session, learn how school-level conditions can make instruction more accessible for English learners, thereby improving academic outcomes. Presenter will also discuss school-level conditions that can help newcomers feel seen, known, and valued.

Speakers



Barbara Davis

School Committee Member | Holbrook



Albert Johnson-Mussad

Leadership and Instruction Continuous Improvement Specialist | Collaborative for Educational Services

How to Make School Committee Meetings Shorter, More Effective, and More Professional

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Barnstable III

Learn about some of the management practices that can make school committee meetings shorter, more effective, and more professional. Sometimes leadership is about an exciting vision and grand statements. Sometimes it's about being a good manager and getting the job done. This session will focus on the latter, with the understanding that good management inevitably creates time and energy to focus on the big picture and long-term goals.

Speakers



Melissa Gerry

School Committee Member | Pioneer Valley Reg. School District



Patricia Kinsella

Superintendent | Pioneer Valley Regional School District



Jordan Burns

Director of Finance & Operations | Pioneer Valley Reg. School District



Taffy Bassett-Fox

Executive Assistant to Superintendent and School Committee | Pioneer Valley Reg. School District

Knowing Our Students by Name, Strength, and Story: Building Trusting Relationships with Chronically Absent and Struggling Students

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Centerville

This session will explore strategies for engaging students and families who face chronic absenteeism or academic challenges. Learn how Chelsea school district staff serve as trusted connectors between home and school to foster meaningful relationships that empower families and reestablish students' connection to their education.

Speakers



Aaron Jennings

Chief of Staff | Chelsea Public Schools



Almi Abeyta

Superintendent | Chelsea Public Schools



Ron Schmidt

Director of Student Success Planning | Chelsea Public Schools



Ana Hernandez

School Committee Member | Chelsea Public Schools



Yrlen Ysasis

Family Liaison | Chelsea Public Schools



Becky Starr

High School Teacher | Chelsea Public Schools

Special Education Update: Legal Issues

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Orleans

This popular session identifies some of the significant current challenges for special educators and their students and reports on trends in public policy that will impact children, faculty and families.

Speakers



Roy Belson

Retired Superintendent | Medford



Mary Ellen Sowyrda

Attorney | Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane



Felicia Vasudevin

Attorney | Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane

Therapy Pets in Schools

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Visit with therapy pets at their booth and at this session and learn how these specially trained animals can help students with reading and social/emotional issues. (And, shhh, here's a secret: they help the adults too.) Share a moment of furry serenity while you're here.

Speakers



Peter Stephens

School Committee Member | Fitchburg Public Schools



Sally Cragin

Councilor | Fitchburg



Cap Corduan

Team Member | TheraPAWS

New, Improved, or Just Holding On? What to Do When Your School Building Needs Help

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Osterville B

When a school facility no longer meets the needs of students or the community, the solution isn't as simple as drawing up blueprints. This session, led by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), demystifies the process of school construction, renovation, and repair—from assessing your district's readiness to navigating funding, planning, timelines, and stakeholders.

Speakers



Margaret Driscoll

Executive Director | MASBO



Mary Pichetti

Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director | MA School Building Authority



Jennifer Gonzalez

Deputy Executive Director | MSBA



Matt Donovan

Director of Administration and Operations | MSBA

MA School Superintendents Business Meeting

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Osterville A

MASC Division I Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Cape Cod

MASC Division II Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

MASC Division III Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

MASC Division IV Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Barnstable II

MASC Division V Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Barnstable III

MASC Division VI Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Centerville

MASC Division VII Meeting

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Location: Orleans

MASC Division IX (Urban Districts) Meeting

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM | Location: Barnstable I

MASC Presidents' Reception

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: Hotel Lobby

Sing & Fling with LiUNA! New England Region

8:00 PM – 11:59 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Join your colleagues for drinks, karaoke, and cornhole!

Friday, November 14, 2025

Continental Breakfast

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Bass River

Registration Open

7:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Collaborative Board Members Network Meeting

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Osterville B

The Multifaceted Benefits of Retirement and Separation Incentives

7:45 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Hyannisport West

This session will explore ways in which districts can reduce labor costs, address declining enrollment, and restructure their workforces through tax-deferred customized voluntary separation incentives. Using proven case studies, attendees will learn how to effectively design an offer to meet the district's fiscal and operational objectives, avoid common missteps during design and implementation, and communicate the incentive for maximum employee participation and maximum budgetary returns. Furthermore, the session will also focus on the benefits of a tax-deferred 403(b) plan structure and how utilizing this type of vehicle brings numerous advantages to both districts and participating employees.

COSCAP Registration

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Cape Cod

MASC Division X (Inclusion, Diversity and Equity) Meeting

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM | Location: Barnstable II

General Session: Federal/Fiscal Update

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Athletic Trainer's Role in Physical, Social, and Emotional Well-being of the School Community

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Hyannisport West

Your athletic trainer has an important role in supporting students, families, and faculty members in the aftermath of critical care situations and trauma. Learn how to utilize their skills and connection with students and families

Speakers



Michele Pavlu

Head Athletic Trainer | Nauset Regional



Kristen Aguiar

Athletic trainer | Canton



Michelle Kelly

Head Athletic Trainer/Concussion Care Coordinator | Somerville



Jennifer Sturtevant

Sports Medicine Program Manager | Tufts Medicine



Sassandra Roche

School Committee Member | Orleans Public Schools



Kendall O'Halloran

School Committee Member | Canton Public Schools

Outlier Behaviors

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Hyannisport East

Serving on a School Committee is a team effort, but what do you do when a member of your team tends to take an unconventional approach? We'll discuss ways to foster conversations that include all voices, and methods to find great value in your differences.

Speakers



Sean Costello

Field Director | MASC



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC

Lunch is Where the Heart Is

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Barnstable II

The Falmouth Public Schools is investing in healthy kids. Learn how more students are loving school meals. CHef Laura is creating menus, celebrating cultures around the world, and emphasizing fresh fruits and vegetables sources locally and taste tested by students. We're aptrnering with the community to cultivate gardens and create curricular opportunities. Come taste the Clipper Experience.

Speakers



Lori Duerr

Superintendent | Falmouth



Kelly Welch

School Committee Member | Falmouth



Paul Dart

Director of Finance and Operations | Falmouth Public Schools



Andrea Burns

Food Service Director | Falmouth Public Schools



Laura Higgins-Baltzley

School Community Chef; | Falmouth Public Schools

Celebrating 50 Years of IDEA

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Barnstable III

Fifty years ago, the passage of IDEA transformed education for students with special needs, ensuring access to public education and promoting inclusion in schools and communities. MA Education Collaboratives have played a vital role in this evolution, providing specialized services and support for students with complex needs. This session, presented by the Collaboratives, will highlight the progress of special education services in MA, and the ongoing efforts on the part of collaboratives to help our most vulnerable students overcome challenges and find new paths to success.

Speakers



Joanne Haley-Sullivan

Executive Director | MA Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC)



Fran Rosenberg

Superintendent | Northshore Education Consortium



Dympna Thomas

Executive Director | Pilgrim Area Collaborative



Hope Hanscom

Executive Director | Cape Cod Collaborative



Catherine Lawson

Education Professional | SEEM collaborative

Project-Based Robotics and AI Assisted Teacher Measurement and Evaluation

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Osterville A

You don't have to look very hard to see that Robots and AI are pervasive throughout our economy and that these elements must become integrated into the curriculum of our schools. This session will introduce a comprehensive educational solution designed to simplify and enhance the integration of robotics into classrooms across all educational levels. The Robotix C360 platform offers schools the ability to remove barriers to facilitate standards based curriculum alignment and enable teacher instruction and assessment fully supported by resources, training and adaptive tools for learning. Built in AI will accelerate teacher feedback and verify student work. District dashboards will track progress by school, grade and subgroup to enable the acquisition of critical skills for future advancement. Currently, two MA districts with more upcoming have established pilot programs. Join this session and learn how this platform can benefit your district.

Speakers



Roy Belson

Retired Superintendent | Medford



Ricard Hugué

CEO | Robotix Hands-On

Digital Well-Being in the Age of Social Media and AI

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Osterville B

From TikTok trends to AI-powered tools, today's digital world is reshaping how students learn, connect, and cope. While these technologies open new doors, they also bring rising concerns about student learning, mental health, cyberbullying, and academic integrity. This session will highlight what the latest research says about digital well-being and share practical, ready-to-use strategies districts can adopt now. Participants will walk away with concrete approaches for policies, programs, and communication that help students thrive while navigating the challenges of an ever-evolving digital world.

Speakers



Shai Fuxman

School Committee Member | Natick Public Schools



Shari Kessel Schneider

Senior Project Director | Education Development Center

Why Rural Schools Matter

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Centerville

Learn about the factors contributing to the crisis in Mass. rural schools and why legislation designed to help is important to all school districts. An open discussion with the panelists will follow the presentation.

Speakers



Martha Thurber

School Committee Member | Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee



Jo Comerford

State Senator | Massachusetts Senate



Natalie Blais

State Representative | Massachusetts House



Sherly Stanton

Superintendent, | Mohawk Trail Reg

Bristol Community College Holocaust and Genocide Center: Sharing Programs and Resources with School Districts

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Orleans

Bristol Community College's Holocaust and Genocide Center offers programs that can be incorporated in both History and English classes with an emphasis on understanding the well-documented history while addressing important skills of critical thinking. Using primary sources, we show the effects of the Nuremberg Laws on personal lives as well as highlight the fact that governments legally enacted laws that isolated victims and normalized hatred and bigotry. The program gives students a timeline of key events leading up to the Holocaust to help them recognize the importance of historical context. In English classes, programs stress how much words matter. Students learn about propaganda; how it was created; how it was delivered to the masses; and how effective it was in crushing empathy. Today's students are so influenced by social media where updated memes amplify old tropes that perpetuate antisemitism and bigotry toward other marginalized groups. The Center helps students analyze Internet posts to distinguish fact from fiction and to seriously consider their role in spreading misinformation. These universal lessons address the questions of how students treat each other and their role as citizens of their communities. .

Leadership Lunch (Ticketed Event)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Bass River

Speaker



Luisa Sparrow

MA Teacher of the Year | Boston Public Schools

Communicating with Care after Incidents of Bias and Harm

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

What can school and district leaders do when a bias incident—or any unsubstantiated accusation—takes on a life of its own? Social media fills in the gaps. Public comment amplifies community pain. Meanwhile, legal guidance, FERPA, and HR policy often limit what can be said. The result? Silence is perceived as complicity, and trust erodes.

This session offers an honest and practical look at how leaders can develop communications strategies that center humanity, uphold legal and ethical boundaries, and foster trust. Participants will explore real-world examples, hear adaptable messaging frameworks, and leave with tools for crafting responses that assure families the district is acting with integrity—even when specific details can't be shared.

Speakers



Gwen Agna

School Committee Member | Northampton



Safire DeJong

Co-Director | Joy & Justice in Schools Program



Tom Chang

Co-Director | Joy & Justice in Schools Program



Sabine Denise Jacques

Equity Specialist | Joy & Justice in Schools Program



Mariah Lapiroff

Equity Specialist | Joy & Justice in Schools Program

Special Education Financial Issues: Impact and Management

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Hyannisport East

Special Education financial issues are often one of the most challenging elements in a school budget. The complexities of the legal and financial requirements and the multiple contingencies of costs frequently and adversely impact Superintendents and School Committees. This workshop will identify critical resources, strategies, and practices that can help efficiently and effectively control the negative impacts of special education finances while at the same time ensuring FAPE to students and their families. The potential impact of policy and funding changes from Washington and the recent audit of DESE SPED processes add a significant dimension.

Speakers



Roy Belson

Retired Superintendent | Medford



Heidi Zimmerman

Director, SPED Financial Management | Lexington Public Schools

Chair Chat

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Barnstable II

Being Chair is a wonderful and weird experience. Come chat with your fellow Chairs and Vice Chairs about the highs, the lows, and the "did that really just happen" experiences behind the gavel.

Speaker



Sean Costello

Field Director | MASC

New Member Onboarding

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Barnstable III

Your first meeting as a School Committee member can be overwhelming. Join us to talk about effective new member onboarding and share your best practices to help your new members hit the ground running.

Speakers



Charlie Ellis

School Committee Member | Nashoba Valley Regional Voc-Tech



Denise Pigeon

Superintendent | Nashoba Valley Technical School District



Alicia Mallon

Field Director | MASC

Parliamentary Procedures/Resolutions Clinic

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Location: Osterville A

Join this special session to prepare for the Delegate Assembly by getting a briefing on both resolutions and actions, and the parliamentary steps you should know about before the annual meeting begins.

Speakers



Patrick Francomano

Legal Counsel | MASC



Jason Fraser

School Committee Member | Plympton | Silver Lake Regional



Glenn Koocher

Executive Director | MASC

Delegate Registration

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom Lobby

Public Records/Open Meeting Law Update

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Osterville A

This session, presented by a MA Assistant AG, will focus on recent open meeting law developments, and what public body members need to know. The session will also include information on open meetings and public records

Speaker



Michael Gilbert

Conference Staff | Retired Field Director | MASC

MASC Delegate Assembly

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom

MASC Past Presidents' Council Meeting

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Suite 104

Life Member/Leadership Reception

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Location: Hyannisport West

Life Member/Leadership Dinner

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Location: Bass River

Speaker



Jason Fraser

School Committee Member | Plympton | Silver Lake Regional