



2022 - 2023 Annual Report

Embracing Excellence
in Special Education



2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

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Theresa Craig, Ed.D
READS Collaborative
www.readscollaborative.org

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www.nsedu.org

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www.lpvec.org

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www.valleycollaborative.org

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www.tec-coop.org

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www.seemcollaborative.org

Executive Director

Joanne Haley Sullivan, M.Ed.
Massachusetts Organization of Educational
Collaboratives
www.moecnet.org

Our Board of Directors is comprised of Executive Directors from our member Collaboratives. These members have been elected by their peers to help lead the organization.

As indicated in our By-Laws, Board Members are elected to two-year terms.



Regional Liaison Representatives



Greater Boston
Donna Flaherty, Ed.D.
ACCEPT Collaborative
www.accept.org

North
Catherine Lawson, Ed.D.
SEEM Collaborative
www.seemcollaborative.org

South
Catherine S. Cooper, M.Ed., JD
Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative
www.smecollabortive.org

Central
Arnold Lundwall, M.S., Ed.
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative
www.swcec.org

West
Todd H. Gazda, Ed.D., JD
Collaborative for Educational Services
www.collaborative.org

Our Regional Liaison Representatives are Executive Directors representing each of our five regions. These members have been elected by their peers to help lead the organization.

As indicated in our By-Laws, Regional Liaison Representatives are elected to three-year terms.

Contact Us:

 774-313-6650

www.moecnet.org



Member Collaboratives

West

Collaborative for Educational Services (CES)	www.collaborative.org
Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC)	www.lpvec.org

Central

Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC)	www.avcollaborative.org
CAPS Educational Collaborative	www.capsed.net
Central Massachusetts Collaborative (CMC)	www.cmasscollaborative.org
Keystone Collaborative	www.keystone.org
Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative (SWCEC)	www.swcec.org

Greater Boston

ACCEPT Collaborative	www.accept.org
CASE Collaborative	www.casecollaborative.org
LABBB Collaborative	www.labbb.com
Shore Educational Collaborative	www.shorecollaborative.org
The Education Cooperative	www.tec-coop.org

North

CREST Collaborative	www.crestcollaborative.org
Northshore Education Consortium (NEC)	www.nsedu.org
SEEM Collaborative	www.seemcollaborative.org
Valley Collaborative	www.valleycollaborative.org

South

Bi-County Collaborative (BICO)	www.bicounty.org
Cape Cod Collaborative	www.capecodcollaborative.org
North River Collaborative (NRC)	www.northrivercollaborative.org
Pilgrim Area Collaborative (PAC)	www.pilgrimac.org
READS Collaborative	www.readscollab.org
South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC)	www.scecoll.org
Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC)	www.smecollaborative.org
South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC)	www.ssec.org



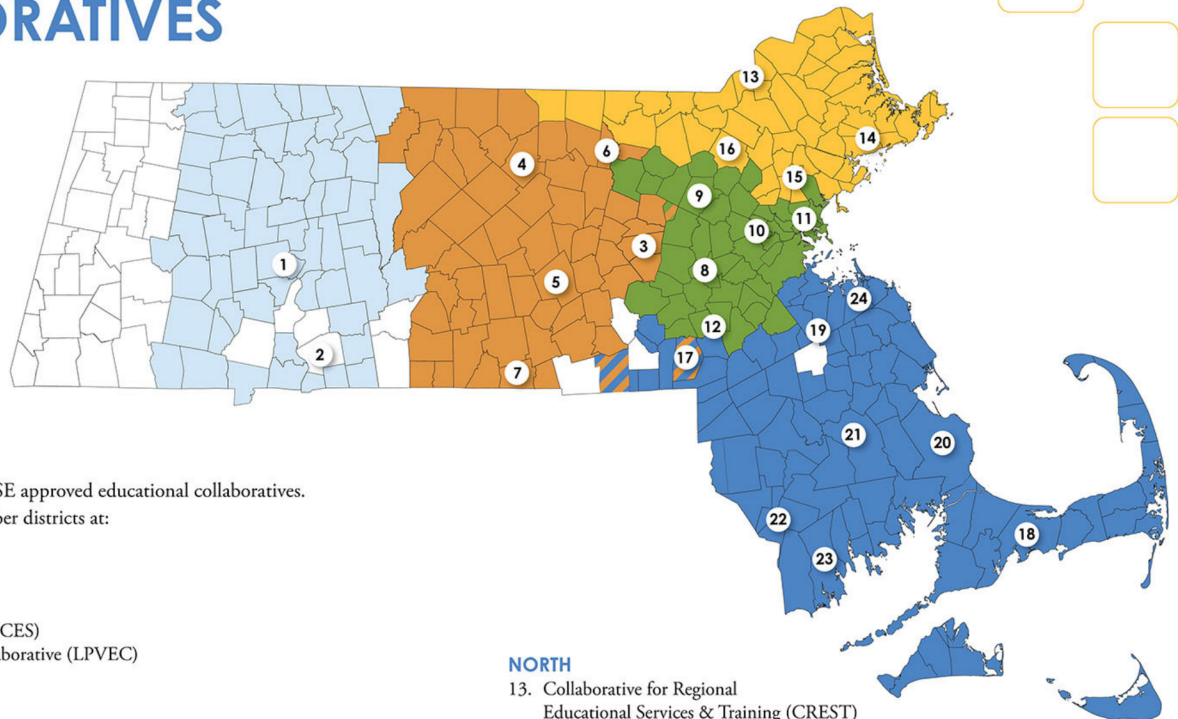
The 24 Collaboratives are organized into five regions across the state. The regions work together with one another to:

1. identify regional needs and priorities for educational services;
2. develop policies to coordinate the delivery of services to school districts in a manner that responds to regional needs and priorities; and
3. work in partnership with the department of elementary and secondary education and other regional entities to coordinate the dissemination of information and support to districts.

Massachusetts

COLLABORATIVES

- West Region
- Central Region
- Greater Boston Region
- South Region
- North Region



Membership in MOEC is open to all DESE approved educational collaboratives.

Find the 24 collaboratives and their member districts at:

<http://moecnet.org/collaboratives/>

WEST

1. Collaborative for Educational Services (CES)
2. Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC)

CENTRAL

3. Assabet Valley Collaborative (AVC)
4. CAPS Collaborative
5. Central Massachusetts Collaborative (CMC)
6. Keystone Educational Collaborative
7. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative (SWCEC)

GREATER BOSTON

8. ACCEPT Education Collaborative
9. CASE Collaborative
10. LABBB Collaborative
11. Shore Educational Collaborative
12. The Education Cooperative (TEC)

NORTH

13. Collaborative for Regional Educational Services & Training (CREST)
14. Northshore Education Consortium (NEC)
15. SEEM Collaborative
16. Valley Collaborative

SOUTH

17. Bi-County Collaborative (BICO)
18. Cape Cod Collaborative
19. North River Collaborative (NRC)
20. Pilgrim Area Collaborative (PAC)
21. READS Collaborative
22. South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC)
23. Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC)
24. South Shore Educational Collaborative (SSEC)

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

It is my honor to submit the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives' Annual Report on behalf of the MOEC Board of Directors, which provides an overview of the success we achieved this year.

In 2022-23 collaboratives served 35,052 students across Massachusetts in over 300 school districts through public special education programs and services, general education services, and transportation services to meet the needs of students, families, and districts, and professional development and other support to educators.

This year we recognized the anniversary of the passage of Chapter 766. Fifty years ago Massachusetts showed leadership in envisioning special education for the Commonwealth. Collaboratives are proud of our role in continuously supporting districts to meet their collective needs including those of their students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment to achieve that vision for our students.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and begin the next 50 years, Massachusetts is facing significant challenges in special education. School districts are increasingly turning to collaboratives to assist with students who have more intense needs than in the past. At the same time, collaboratives are experiencing significant staffing shortages and many collaborative school buildings are in need of funding for critical capital upgrades and improvements to provide needed space for additional students.



Despite the challenges the year presented, 2022-23 was also a period of considerable progress for MOEC and its member collaboratives. We focused on three overarching goals: to be more data informed in our work; to focus on evidence-based curriculum to address the needs of our students with severe disabilities; and to continue to expand our professional development opportunities for collaborative program leaders. As we proceeded through the year, the need for appropriate space and facilities for our programs and services to serve the increasing number and needs of students became a significant priority for the MOEC Board as well. This was a challenge before the pandemic but with the increase in the volume and intensity of student needs, our capacity to respond is limited.

Our organization continues to advance the interests of our members and our member school districts to ensure that every child in the Commonwealth receives a high-quality education. Since our beginning in the 1970s, our reputation for providing student and district support continues to flourish.

I am grateful for the support and work of our Board of Directors, the members of our various Committees or those who represent on various Commissions. MOEC's impact across the Commonwealth is realized in the important areas of advocacy, partnership and professional development thanks to the contributions of all.

This year we have said goodbye to six of our Executive Directors due to retirement or other opportunities. We wish Liz McGonagle, Theresa Craig, Roland Joyal, Jackie Clark, Clarice Doliber, and Kim Oliviera the best and thank them for their outstanding contributions to MOEC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Haley Sullivan

Executive Director

Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives

Who We Are



The Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives (MOEC) is the professional organization representing the Commonwealth's 24 educational collaboratives. MOEC serves as the voice of its members and works to develop a full appreciation for and understanding of educational collaboratives at the state, regional, and local levels. As an influential facilitator and highly visible proponent of regional thinking in service delivery, MOEC is the Commonwealth's primary advocate for collaboratives and the critical role they play in the Massachusetts educational system.

MOEC provides a forum to enhance the ability of collaboratives to promote leadership and direction to their organizations through professional development, information exchange, and advocacy for collaborative programming so that Massachusetts collaboratives may better serve their constituents.

Educational Collaboratives in Massachusetts

In 1974, Massachusetts enacted legislation that encouraged school districts to come together to address demands for special education services through collaboratives. Further legislation in 2012 clearly delineated the authority under which educational collaboratives operate. The resulting partnerships have grown to encompass many diverse educational services and programs. Massachusetts collaboratives bring school districts together to cooperatively undertake ways in which school districts may be strengthened and expand their capacity.

Collaboratives benefit school districts, students, families, educators and taxpayers by maximizing efficiency through shared costs and expertise. They play a leadership role in developing a broad range of innovative programming to meet emerging needs by providing training, enabling the sharing of exemplary educational practices, and serving and educating many of our most vulnerable students across the Commonwealth.

Today, educational collaboratives offer a wide range of programs and services:

- Career and technical education
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Early childhood services
- Family supports/Wrap around services
- Health/Mental Health and safety initiatives
- Professional Development
- Recovery High Schools
- School Based Medicaid reimbursement services
- Services for individuals with disabilities post 22 years old
- Special education programs and services
- Student data privacy initiatives
- Therapeutic services
- Transportation services for both regular and special education students
- Virtual learning and the Commonwealth Virtual School

Three overarching goals for 2022-2023:



Conduct a Programs and Services Survey and analyze the data for the membership and other stakeholders

Form a Curriculum Task Force for Programs Serving Students with Severe Special Needs

Expand Professional Development Offerings



Goal 1: Collaborative Data

From Provincetown to Western Massachusetts, MOEC members provide a wide array of services serving schools, educators, communities, and learners of all ages, from professional development and expert consultation to specialized student programs, wrap-around services, and more. This year we conducted a comprehensive survey to collect information about the array of services that collaboratives provide their districts.

The Commonwealth's 24 Collaboratives employ 5396 educators and staff to serve 35,052 students in a variety of ways:

- serve over **5,253** students in special education programs
- provide special education services to over **4,089** students
- provide general education services to over **5,042** students
- provide special education transportation to over **1,979** students
- provide general education transportation to over **18,689** students

Collaborative educational programs serve students with the following needs:

- Autism Spectrum
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Multiple Disabilities/Complex Health
- Post-High School Transition
- Emotional and Behavioral Health Needs
- Vision
- Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders



Collaboratives provide the following special education services

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Assistive Technology
- Home/Hospital Tutoring
- Mental Health Services
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Orientation & Mobility
- Parent Training
- Physical Therapy
- Program Evaluation & Consultation
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Student Assessments
- Transitional & Vocational Services
- Vision



Collaborative Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity (as reported on the DESE website, June 2022)

	Collaborative	Massachusetts
African American	9.4%	9.4%
Asian	3.4%	7.3%
Hispanic	21.4%	24.2%
Native American	0.2%	0.2%
White	60.3%	54.4%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	5.2%	4.4%



Goal 2: Evidence Based Curriculum

Teaching functional and life skills requires educators to determine the needs of each student and to prepare effectively for their future. Technology has added a new dimension to teaching functional and life skills. This year, MOEC's Curriculum Committee surveyed the 24 Massachusetts Educational Collaboratives and researched curricula available nationwide to develop a resource of current evidence-based practices to address the educational needs of students with severe disabilities. The document is designed to provide curriculum guidance and support for educators serving students with severe disabilities and can be found on the MOEC website (www.moecnet.org).



Goal 3: Professional Development Offerings

Leadership Academy for Leaders of Therapeutic Programs

This three session Academy was designed to enhance the knowledge and skill of leaders of therapeutic programs in collaborative settings. Participants examined research based practices to enhance their leadership skills and strengthen their programs.

Risk Awareness Training from the Office of the Inspector General

This training for Executive Directors, Program Leaders, and Business Managers provided information about what employees can do to prevent and detect fraud.

Legal Issues Workshop

This year we again hosted our annual Legal Issues Workshop from Murphy, Hesse, Twomey, and Lehane. Topics discussed were timely and meaningful including special education, student discipline, and human resources updates.

Leadership Academy for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

This two-session workshop supported Leadership Teams to advance their work toward shaping a collaborative- wide approach for their DEI work.

Job Alike Groups

MOEC provides ongoing opportunities for leaders in a variety of roles within their organization to meet with role-alike colleagues to discuss pressing issues and support one another in their success.

Groups include:

- Executive Director Job Alike Group
- Special Education Program Leaders Job Alike Group
- Professional Development Leaders Job Alike Group
- Equity Specialist Job Alike Group
- English Learners Leaders Job Alike Group
- Nurse Leaders Job Alike Group
- In-Home Services Leaders Job Alike Group
- Business Leaders Job Alike Group
- Human Resources Job Alike Group
- Technology Leaders and Data Specialists Job Alike Group
- Transportation Leaders Job Alike Group



Advocacy

Massachusetts Great and General Court:

MOEC serves as the voice of its members and works to develop a full appreciation for and understanding of educational collaboratives at the state, regional, and local levels. MOEC is the Commonwealth's primary advocate for collaboratives and the critical role they play in the Massachusetts educational system. In that capacity, we provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Education to update their members on the status of special education in Massachusetts, specifically in collaboratives in addition to individual meetings with the Education Chairs, Alice Peisch and Jason Lewis. We are grateful to them for their support and wish Chair Peisch well in her new role. We have also met with the new House Chair Denise Garlick and look forward to the leadership she will bring to the education field. MOEC also represents its members on federal legislative issues and keeps our federal delegation informed of the work of Educational Collaboratives across the state.

MOEC's advocacy at all levels is premised on:

- Equity in educational opportunity for students served through collaboratives
- Equity in access to high quality staff, facilities, curriculum and instruction

Ethics Bill Amendment: Educational Collaboratives are designed to create efficiencies and share expertise across multiple school districts. However, because Collaboratives are extensions of their member school districts, employees of public school districts are prohibited from taking a part-time, temporary, or stipend position with a Collaborative if the district in which he or she is employed is a member of that Collaborative. This significantly limits the pool of qualified candidates in a geographic area and it can become an extreme hardship for some Collaboratives to support the students and districts we serve who rely on the expertise and qualifications of the educators and school health professionals in our regions. We have proposed legislation to overcome this staffing barrier, and continue to advocate for its passage, to enhance our ability to provide critical IEP services to our students.

We are grateful to Representative Christopher Markey (9th Bristol) and Senator Jacob Olivera (7th Hampden) for filing H3087 and S2042: An Act Relative to Educational Collaboratives to address this barrier to meeting the needs of our students and we will continue to advocate going forward.



Facilities: On any given school day, approximately 4,000 students participate in Collaborative schools and programs, however across the state, many Collaborative school buildings are in need of critical capital upgrades and improvements. Since Collaboratives' capital expenses are excluded from reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), critical projects are being delayed, and needed expansion to support additional students in Collaborative programs are often not going forward. MOEC advocated for the Commonwealth to consider addressing this need to ensure the continued provision of quality programs and services in an equitable, cost-efficient, and accessible manner. We seek a remedy whereby state funds may be used for Collaborative capital projects and acquisition of school facilities without overburdening our school districts.

We are grateful to Representative Michael Kusmerek (3rd Worcester) and Senator Jacob Olivera (7th Hampden) for filing An Act providing school building assistance for special education collaboratives (H569).

Adequate and Appropriate Special Education Funding: Collaboratives provide high quality programs and services in a cost effective way to students with complex needs. Collectively we save districts and the state millions of dollars every year. However, while Collaboratives' tuition is kept relatively low, as approved by our district members, there is little to no reimbursement to school districts for students placed in collaboratives because our average tuition does not meet the current cost threshold for Circuit Breaker reimbursement. We have advocated that a Commission be formed to review the current reimbursement formula and consider lowering the threshold for eligibility for circuit breaker funding to encourage cost effectiveness.

We are grateful to Representative Michael Kusmerek (3rd Worcester) and Representative Adam Scanlon (14th Bristol) for filing H571, An Act relative to the long-term fiscal health and sustainability of special education in the Commonwealth, and to Representative Kusmerek and Senator Olivera for filing H527 and S33, An Act relative to adjusting approved costs thresholds, both of which will promote equity in special education funding.

Staffing Shortage: Collaboratives and the districts they serve must ensure they have qualified and highly effective employees. We are currently facing a nation-wide special educator shortage with which Massachusetts is in alignment. We recommend a Commission be established to explore ways to expand the pipeline of special educators and to address barriers to entry into the field to encourage a diverse and culturally responsive workforce. Collaboratives currently partner with various state universities to provide educator licensure programs and would serve as an asset to such a Commission if included. We support recent changes to the requirements for special education and EL licensure to partially address this shortage.



Partnerships

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

MOEC and its members participate in ongoing meetings with DESE to ensure that the collaboratives' perspectives are embedded in their initiatives and outreach and to find ways that collaboratives can partner with DESE to support their districts.. Included in these discussions were:

- Facilities Issues: We are grateful for \$900,000 in DESE Funding to Collaboratives with identified HVAC needs.
- Staffing shortages: Regional Liaison Representatives discussed serious concerns with the insufficiency of the Special Educator Pipeline to meet the growing needs of students with disabilities. We discussed with the Commissioner about the difficulties for certain groups to get MA licensure due to the multiple MTELs required for special education applicants and we were pleased to see some changes to licensure requirements at this time. We also discussed the possibility of “apprenticeship” or other “grow your own” programs.
- Grant opportunities: we appreciate that DESE has increased its inclusion of collaboratives in grant funding to support our students and districts.
- We were represented on DESE Advisory Groups:
 - Safe and Supportive Schools Committee
 - Special Education Advisory Council
 - DESE Restraint and Seclusion Advisory Group
 - Digital Learning Advisory Committee
 - Staffing Vacancy Working Group

Statewide educational groups

- Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth
- Office of the Child Advocate
- Workforce Investment Boards
- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials
- Coalition for Special Education Funding
- Transition Aged Youth Coalition
- Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation
- Special Education Transportation Task Force



Regional and Statewide Initiatives

MOEC and its members work in partnership with DESE and other statewide agencies, to support statewide and regional initiatives. The list below is a sampling of initiatives that extend beyond the individual collaborative in providing these regional or statewide opportunities to support students across the Commonwealth.

- Behavioral Health Symposium
- Building Equitable Supports for Children with Disabilities (Early Education)
- Department of Youth Services Education Initiative
- Educator Leadership Institute
- Emergency Licensure Training
- Healthy Hampshire
- MA Representative for Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA)
- New Special Education Directors Leadership Institute
- Special Education Team Leader Institute
- Special Education in Institutional Settings (SEIS)
- Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY)
- Student Data Privacy Alliance
- The Massachusetts Migrant Education Program
- The Massachusetts Special Education Surrogate Parent Program
- Title III Consortia

AESA

MOEC and its member collaboratives are members of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) whose mission is to support and strengthen regional educational service agencies by:

- Advocating nationally to assure that ESAs and the association's policy platform are represented in and influence education legislation and policy discussions and decisions.
- Providing professional growth opportunities for ESA leadership teams and their boards.
- Strengthening state ESA networks and individual agencies through technical assistance.
- Advancing the marketing or branding of ESAs as an indispensable partner in the education system.

2022 - 2023

MOEC Standing Committees

Professional Development Committee

Arnold Lundwall (SWCEC), Chair, Central
Fran Rosenberg (NEC), North
Dympna Thomas (PAC), South
Helen Deranian (CREST), North
David Heimbecker (SCEC), South
Liz McGonagle (TEC), Greater Boston
*Theresa Craig (READS), MOEC President, Ex-Officio

Legislative Committee

Catherine Cooper (SMEC), Chair, South
Paul Hilton (CCC), South
Cathy Lawson (SEEM), North
Arnold Lundwall (SWCEC), Central
Roland Joyal (LPVEC), West
Liz McGonagle (TEC) Greater Boston
*Theresa Craig (READS), MOEC President, Ex-Officio

Finance Committee

Chris Scott (Valley), Chair, North Region
Jim George, CPA (Valley), Advisor to the Committee
Cathy Lawson (SEEM), North Region
John Demanche (KEYSTONE), Central Region
Todd Gazda (CES), West Region
Rick Reino (South Shore), South Region
Liz McGonagle (TEC), Greater Boston
*Theresa Craig (READS), MOEC President, Ex-Officio



2022 - 2023 MOEC Committees

By-laws and Rules Committee	Chris Scott (Valley), Chair, North Sanchita Banerjee (CASE), Greater Boston Jackie Clark (Shore), Greater Boston
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Capital and Facilities Committee	Paul Hilton (Cape Cod), Chair, South Fran Rosenberg (NEC), North John Demanche (Keystone), Central Rick Reino (South Shore), South Kristin Shaver (Shore), Greater Boston
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Curriculum Committee	Catherine Lawson, (SEEM), North Sanchita Banerjee (CASE), Greater Boston Susan Farrell (CMC), Central Jennifer Gates (CAPS), Central Kim Oliviera (CREST), North
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2022 - 2023 Advisory Group Representatives

Special Education Advisory Council	Susan Farrell (CMC)	Special Education Transportation Advisory Group	Joanne Haley Sullivan
Mass State Employees Retirement System Working Group (on hold)	Paul Hilton (Cape Cod)	BirCH Project	Fran Rosenberg (NEC)
Safe and Supportive Schools Commission	Susan Farrell (CMC)	Restraint and Seclusion Advisory Committee	Fran Rosenberg (NEC)
Digital Learning Advisory Committee	Angela Burke (CES)	DESE/OASES Change Coalition	Cathy Lawson (SEEM) Christina Caputo (Cape Cod)
Coalition for Special Education Funding	Joanne Haley Sullivan		

