

A message from the
Massachusetts Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education

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1. Did You Know?: Free 1-Day PD in Science and Math

Grades 1-6 teachers and coaches (such as instructional technology specialists) who are interested in integrating computational thinking into their mathematics or science classes are invited to attend a [free, one-day professional development session](#) in February or March. Participants will:

- build a shared understanding of the complementary digital literacy and computer science, mathematics, or science and technology/engineering standards by grade level and
- learn strategies and structures that will strengthen and balance computational thinking and math and science instruction and learning.

Participants will learn about integrated curricula and will have time to work through grade-specific activities. Mini-grants are available for teachers who implement the integrated units this school year and provide feedback.

The one-day sessions will each run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be held on February 2 in Waltham, February 9 in West Springfield, and March 2 in Southeastern Massachusetts. Please [register online](#).

2. The Buzz: Keeping Educators Passionate about Teaching



On Educators at one of three themed tables brainstorm ways to keep educators excited about the profession.

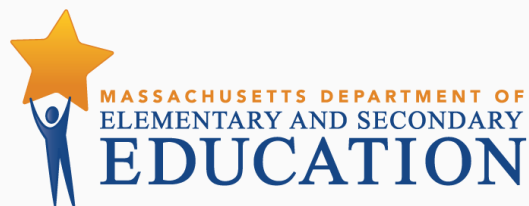
We'd like to thank all the educators who came to Worcester Technical High School yesterday to brainstorm roles and opportunities that DESE and others could offer to mid- and late-career teachers to keep them passionate about their profession. Jamil Siddiqui, who is the 2019 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, 2018 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Cara Pekarcik, and 2017 Milken Educator Dan Adler led the session, and participants decided to focus on three areas:

- professional development opportunities around culturally responsive teaching,
- teacher externships and other forms of subject-specific professional development, and
- teacher symposiums and similar forums for teachers to learn from each other.

We'll explore these ideas further and hope to have opportunities to share with you in the future! If you'd like to help, please email [Jamil](#), [Cara](#), or [Dan](#).

3. FYI: Annual Report Features Examples from Districts

This year, we took a different approach to our (OK, we admit it, historically dry) [annual report](#). What happens in classrooms is central to all we do, and this year's report is a dynamic online document that highlights both agency activities and examples from the field. Thank you to the many schools and districts that shared their work!



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