



# Executive Director's Update

## Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

33 Forge Parkway | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | msaa.net

### From Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

### November 7, 2024

#### National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society Fall Massachusetts Conference

November 15, 2024

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

[Click here](#) to register

#### Call for SY 2025-2026 Presenters is Now Open!

Please consider facilitating a Professional Development Workshop for the upcoming school year. We believe attendees will greatly benefit from your expertise! Workshops are scheduled on weekdays, and they can be held in-person at the MSAA Office (8:30 -11:30 am) or online via Zoom, lasting between 1.5 to 3 hours. If you are interested, please fill out [this form](#) to submit your proposal. The deadline for submissions is May 5, 2025.

#### Professional Development Workshops for SY24-25!

In October, we scheduled 17 professional development workshops; however, we had to cancel 8 due to low enrollment. We require a minimum of 11 participants to host with a half-day workshop (8:30-11:30 a.m.) and 17 participants for a full-day workshop (8:30 a.m. -3 p.m.).

To promote these workshops, we have implemented a variety of outreach strategies, including:

- Requesting presenters to share the PD flyer with their networks via email and social media
- Posting on our website (since June)
- Distributing PD Workshop Books at the Summer Institute (July)
- Sending email blasts to members, with individual workshop flyers included
- Highlighting workshops in our weekly compendium
- Featuring workshop information in the monthly Executive Director's Update
- Providing a QR code for upcoming workshops during scheduled sessions

We will continue our efforts to promote these workshops, and we kindly ask that you share the information with your colleagues as well.

#### Educational Personnel Advisory Council (EPAC)

Dr. Peter Dufresne, 2024 MASC Administrator of the Year and Principal of Tantasqua Regional High School, will serve on the EPAC for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### Upcoming Professional Development Workshops:

[Please click](#) here for a full list of our PD offerings.

- November 7 (Online, 3:00-4:30 PM) - From Overwhelmed to Empowered: Leveraging AI in Education. Join Us for an Exclusive Online Workshop Special Discount! Member \$50 / Non-Member \$75
- November 12 - Taming the Email Blast
- November 13 - Athletic Consent Workshops
- November 19 - Self-Care for Educators
- November 20 (8:30-11:30 AM) - Building Teacher Self-Efficacy: Bridging the Gap Between Administrators and Teachers
- November 20 (12:30-3:30 PM) - The Need for Community within the School: Teacher Retention Strategies
- November 21 - From Exhausted to Empowered: Building Resilience and Well-being in the Classroom

#### Call for Proposals: MSAA/MIAA DEI Youth Summit

The Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) invite you to submit proposals for workshop sessions at the 2025 DEI Youth Summit. This year's summit, themed "Leading with Courage," will be held on January 17, 2025, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. We anticipate an audience of approximately 300 students from across the Commonwealth. Workshop sessions will be 60 minutes in length. To be considered, please submit the following information by November 15, 2024: [Form to Submit Workshop Proposals](#).

#### The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Data Advisory Commission

A special thanks is extended to Mr. Matthew Mattos for representing MSAA by serving on the SOA Data Advisory Commission. Principal Mattos has held the MSAA seat on the Commission since 2020. We greatly appreciate his commitment and work on the SOA Data Advisory Commission!

Christopher Barnes, Principal of Monument Regional High School will serve on the SOA Data Advisory Commission for the 2024-2025 school year.

#### Student Activities Registration (Student Council, National Honor Society, Cheer, Dance, Game Day and Esports)

Reminder to register your Student Activities for the 2024-2025 School Year. [Click here](#) to register.

#### Membership



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A reminder that we are accepting MSAA Membership Registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. As you may have noticed, the enrollment numbers and energy surrounding the Association has increased over the last year with over 250 new members. With a strong focus on Principals, we are hoping that you will also encourage your Assistant Principals to join this great organization. Whether it be discounted Professional Development, a voice on state and national committees, access to a confidential support hotline, or simply collaboration and a network with other school leaders your Association is a great source of support for you. **Also, please remember, membership dues are covered in most contracts and paid for by many districts.** [Click here](#) for more information.

### MSAA Seeks Nominations for Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year

We are extending the deadline for nominations of Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year. Nominations for Middle and High School Assistant Principal of the Year are closed. We ask you to take a look at the person down the hall from you. Or, think of a peer from another district that has always offered you sound advice. Simply, email Bonnie LeMote ([blemote@msaa.net](mailto:blemote@msaa.net)) telling us in a sentence or two, why you are nominating this person. Nominees must meet the criteria listed below.

- MSAA member
- Assistant Principal for three (3) complete years in one school

### LLP/GCSL

As you may recall MSAA and William James collaborated last spring to bring to our membership a state-of-the-art leadership program. We are well into the second semester of our first year and believe it or not are starting to plan for the 2025-2026 Cohort. Below is a link to our flyer for your convenience and on the flyer is the application link. If you have any questions about our program, please do not hesitate to contact Beth [bwittcoff@msaa.net](mailto:bwittcoff@msaa.net). Beth is also available to arrange a 1-1 or multi person Zoom meeting to discuss the strengths and merits of the program. [Click here to apply.](#)

### Coaching Program for New Administrators

We are thrilled to offer 36 trained and experienced Coaches who are available to support new administrators as they navigate their leadership roles. Our coaches bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to help guide and empower school leaders in creating positive change.

Check out the details of our Coaching Program through the following links:

- [Outline](#)
- [Coaching Directory](#)
- [Request a Coach](#)

Whether you're a new administrator or know someone who could benefit, this program is designed to provide tailored guidance and practical solutions. Explore the program and take advantage of this valuable resource!

### Williams James College – Understanding Adolescent Depression and Suicide

Join us for an important conversation about adolescent depression and suicide. This discussion features information about latest research, how to address the topic of suicide with adolescents and the community and sharing resources. The evening is inspired by the film *Shattered Ice*, the true story of a New England teenage hockey player's attempt to navigate high school life when his best friend dies by suicide. The goal of the film is to raise awareness, tell a powerful story, and send a message to other young teenagers/adults that there is light at the end of the tunnel even in the darkest times.

Join us for a preview of the film, panel presentations, and convening of our community to address this critical topic. This program is FREE to attend, and light refreshments will be provided. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

### Confidential Hotline

The Confidential Support Hotline has been established this year and is a service for all members to get advice and support to challenging questions. [This link](#) allows you to see the specifics of this new and confidential service. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

### What We Offer:

**Immediate Support in Times of Need:** Whether you're dealing with a sudden emergency, a challenging situation, or simply need someone to talk to during a difficult moment, our hotline is available to provide immediate support and guidance.

**A Safe Space to Vent:** Being a school Principal can sometimes feel like an isolated role. Our hotline serves as a confidential space where you can express your concerns, share your frustrations, and receive empathetic listening from trained professionals who understand the unique demands of your position.

**Expert Legal Guidance:** Navigating the legal landscape within the educational realm can be complex. If you encounter legal issues or questions related to school policies, personnel matters, student rights, or other legal concerns, our hotline can refer you to experienced legal advisors who can provide knowledgeable guidance and assistance.

**Compassionate Assistance:** Our team is committed to providing compassionate assistance tailored to your specific needs. Whether you require practical advice, emotional support, or resources to address a challenging situation, we're here to help you navigate through it with



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professionalism and care.

**Confidentiality Guarantee:** Your privacy and confidentiality are of utmost importance to us. When you call our hotline, you can trust that your information will be kept strictly confidential. You can feel comfortable speaking openly and honestly about your concerns, knowing that our conversations remain entirely private.

**How to Reach Us:**

To access our Confidential Support Hotline, simply dial (508) 541-9821. Our team of trained professionals is ready to assist you whenever you need support the most.

**Remember, You're Not Alone:** As a school Principal, it's natural to encounter challenges along the way. But with MSAA's Confidential Support Hotline, you're never alone in facing them. We're here to support you every step of the way, empowering you to overcome obstacles and continue making a positive impact in your school community.

## Cheerleading/Game Day and Dance Fall State Tournament Dates:

- Cheer Regionals: November 17
- Cheer States: November 24
- Dance States – November 10
- Game Day States – November 17

Check <https://www.msaa.net/activities> for more information.

## Calendar

- November 20 – Assistant Principals Committee
- December 2 – MSAA Board of Directors

## Holiday Office Hours

- November 27 – Close at 11:00
- November 28 & 29 – Closed
- December 24 – Close at noon
- December 25, 26 & 27 – Closed
- December 31 – Close at noon
- January 1 & 2 - Closed

## Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin

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## Thankful for you!

During this season of gratitude, we count ourselves fortunate to know educators like you. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of your students and inspiring the next generation of learners.

From all of us at Horace Mann, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

**We appreciate you!**

If you need us, we're only a click away.

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