



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

March 5, 2025

(Click on the image for more information)

National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society MA Spring Conference

April 8, 2025 at College of the Holy Cross

Conference will feature:

- Showcase Chapter's major projects and accomplishments: service, leadership, fundraising
- Student workshops promoting personal growth, school leadership, and community service
- Opportunities for students to share their school programs and learn about other schools' programs
- Opportunities for all advisers to share experiences, express concerns and receive information

Presentation of Awards for Student of the Year, Commended Chapter, Adviser of the Year and the Golden Torch Award
[Click here](#) to register.

Call for Award Nominations: National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society

Please take a moment to nominate a student from your school to receive one of these scholarships. Principals, consider nominating your NHS Adviser for recognition. The award is highly regarded and well received. All the Award application forms can be found on the NHS page of the [MSAA website](#):

- [Student of the Year Award](#)
- [Evrett Masters Adviser of the Year Award](#)
- [Gold Torch Award](#)
- [Commended Charter Award](#)

2025 Assistant Principals Conference – Featuring Keynote Tom Hierck

The Learning Outcome: We make a difference. We must believe that statement. Every child that enters our schools in August will be different in June. The question is how will they change? By next August will they simply be one year older? Will they simply have a year's worth of new facts in their heads? Will they be more school-wise and better able to spew back what we want to hear? Or will they be independent thinkers, mature enough to tackle the academic and social challenges ahead of them? The answers to these questions come from within us, the adults. What we do with students and how we do it, from August to June is the critical factor. [Click here](#) to register – we hope to see you there!

Upcoming Professional Development Workshops:

- March 6 (8:30-11:30 AM) - Fostering a Culture that Includes ALL Students in an Inclusionary, Diverse and Equitable Setting Through Co-Teaching
- March 6 (12:30-3:30 PM) - How Do We Ensure that Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) is Being Honored in the Co-Taught Classroom?
- March 10 - Cultivating a Positive Adult Culture in Schools

Summer Institute 2025

Registration is now open. [Visit](#) the Summer Institute page for more information. [Click here](#) to register.

Call for Presenters: MSAA Professional Development Workshop 25-26

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 can be held in-person at the MSAA Office (8:30 -11:30 am, 8:30 -3:00 pm) or online via Zoom, lasting between 1.5 to 3 hours. [Click here](#) to fill out an application.

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.

A Focus on Special Education Leaders

We are in the process of organizing the leaders and teachers from various Special Education Departments from around the state. The goal is to identify topics for a five-part Professional Development series for the 2025-2026 academic year. If you have suggestions for topics that are needed to enhance your Special Education Department, please email Steve Dubzinski at sdubzinski@miaa.net. All conversations are encouraged.



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K-12 Schools on Protecting Immigrant Students and Their Information

School leaders:

Please [click here](#) for view a flyer for K-12 schools regarding protecting immigrant students' information. This flyer is a companion piece to the guidance the AGO released last week (the guidance is again [attached here](#)).

Cell Phones and Social Media in Schools Toolkit

School and district leaders:

The [Cell Phones and Social Media in Schools Toolkit](#) for school leaders and school communities was released today by the MA Attorney General's Office at the M.A.S.S. mid-winter meeting. The Toolkit contains three major components: (1) A model bell-to-bell full school day cell phone policy (that may be tailored and adapted to meet the needs of your school/district); (2) A guide for developing community norms (related to cell phone and social media use outside of school hours); and (3) Digital Media Literacy Curriculum resources. This Toolkit does not impose any requirements on districts but rather is a resource the AGO has developed to support school district leaders and communities in response to concerns raised by schools about the pervasive disruptions of cell phones on the learning environment. Please do not hesitate to let us know any questions that arise and we will direct them to the AGO as appropriate.

Membership

The energy and excitement around the Association continues to build as we increase the number of school leaders committed to our mission. If you are a member, THANK YOU! If you are not a member, please consider joining today for access to 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. Also, as a Principal, we strongly encourage you to register your Assistant Principals or other Principals in your district as we celebrate the profession. [Click here](#) for more information.

Coaching Program for New Administrators

Please share the [Request a Coach](#) link with your colleagues and encourage them to enroll new administrators in our coaching program for the school year 2025-2026. 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!

Esports - High School Interest Survey and Spring '25 Registration

MSAA has been partnering with PlayVS to offer an outstanding esports experience. Getting started is EASY and participation is completely FREE. Spring '25 enrollment

OPEN NOW! Interested? Fill out this short [survey](#). Filling out the survey helps your school get more information and connect with a dedicated contact to help get ready to participate in esports. Even if you're unsure about whether your school will compete, we encourage you to complete this survey and we can help answer any questions you may have. **BONUS:** Schools that complete the survey and participate in the Spring '25 season have a chance to win:

- A Nintendo Switch Bundle* (valued at \$650 USD)

We look forward to seeing new and returning teams, along with crowning our next state champions this upcoming season!

NEW! Middle School Esports - Spring Season Is HERE!

Following another successful high school Fall season with PlayVS, we're excited to announce that middle school esports is now OPEN for enrollment! Students can compete in popular games like *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate™*, *Rocket League*, *NBA2K* and more. Best of all, participation is completely FREE, and there's **NO enrollment deadline** for the PlayVS middle school regional leagues—you can join anytime during the Spring '25 season. Our partnership with PlayVS is focused on fostering participation and growth at the middle school level, offering students what could be their first experience in a scholastic activity. If your school is interested or simply want to learn more, please fill out the MSAA Middle

School Esports [Survey](#). It's a no-obligation way for us to provide more information and connect your school with the right person. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity for your middle school and students!

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin

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