



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

33 Forge Parkway | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | [msaa.net](http://msaa.net)

## From Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

**September 15, 2025**

### All school leaders are invited to attend our 2025 Kickoff Event on September 30, 2025 in our Franklin Office.

Your attendance at this great event will include our school-level committees (Elementary, Middle, and High School) from 8:30-9:20, a speaking program featuring MSAA Executive Director Bob Baldwin, MSAA President Marty Geoghan, and Keynote Brian McCann as well as other dignitaries. Finally, our Urban, Rural, Special Education, and Assistant Principal Committees will meet from 11:30-12:20. We hope every school leader will attend or send a representative from your school. [Click here](#) for more information. Please RSVP to Bonnie at [blemote@msaa.net](mailto:blemote@msaa.net).

### Make the Difference – Committee Leadership Survey

Your engagement is what makes the difference in the lives of educators and students across Massachusetts. We invite you to complete our brief [interest survey](#) and indicate your areas of interest, expertise, and passion! The first committee meeting will be held during the School Year Kickoff meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your leadership, your dedication to our students, and your partnership with MSAA. We look forward to a year of collaboration, connection, and meaningful impact.

### Administrators Coaching and Mentoring Program

We are thrilled to offer 35 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. This year, we've set a goal of recruiting 75 new leaders into our coaching program. As of now, we have 21 new leaders enrolled - that's 54 more to go! We need your help to reach this milestone. Could you please refer at least one new leader (Principal, Assistant Principal or Central Office Leader) by sending their name, email, and telephone number to Yolanda at [yburnett@msaa.net](mailto:yburnett@msaa.net). Together, we can ensure that more school leaders benefit from the support and guidance of the MSAA Coaching Program. Check out the details of our Coaching Program through the following links: [Outline](#); [Request a Coach](#); or view our [Coaching Directory](#). 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!

### Combatting Hate in Massachusetts Schools – Webinar for School Leaders

September 16, 2025 - 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[\[Registration Link\]](#). The webinar presented by the Attorney General's Office will review the updated [Guidance on Schools'](#)

### [Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias](#)

[Incidents](#). The audience for this webinar is superintendents, principals, other district and school leaders, and school district attorneys.

### SY 25-26 MSAA Membership Registrations

With a strong focus on Principals, we are hoping that you will 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.

### Professional Development Workshops for SY25-26!

We are excited to announce the offerings for the SY25-26 [Professional Development Workshops](#)! These workshops are designed to support educators, school leaders, and staff in enhancing their skills and practices. Please share these opportunities with your school community, network, and colleagues. It's a great chance to learn, grow, and collaborate with professionals across the state. Together, we can foster professional growth and continue making an impact on our schools! Together, we can foster professional growth and continue making an impact on our schools!

### Online PD Workshops

- **Parent Collaboration** - *Liz Capone* (October 7, 3-4:30 PM)
- **From Evaluation to Elevation: Delivering Transformational Feedback to Educators** - *Craig Aarons-Martin* (October 8, 3-6 PM)
- **Window Work: Cultivating Connection, Empathy, and Collaboration** - *Bianca Chandler* (October 14, 11-1 PM)
- **Pause, Breathe, Teach: Helping Students (and Yourself!) Stay Regulated** - *Kerri Russo* (October 16, 9-11 AM)

### In-Person PD Workshops

- **Legal Workshop: Current Disciplinary Issues Affecting School Leaders** - *Cat Lyons, Esq.* (October 3)
- **School Mental Health: Leverage Your Counseling Staff for Better Student Outcomes** - *Bob Bardwell* (October 7)
- **Big Feelings, Small Bodies: Helping Students Navigate Emotions in Real Time (K-2)** - *Kerri Russo* (October 8)
- **Utilizing Restorative Practice and Community Circles to Build School Communities and Reshape School Discipline** - *Dr. Curtis A. Bates* (October 9, 8:30-11:30 AM)
- **The Power of Play - Reimagining Student Learning Through Joy and Discovery** - *Tara Rossi & Jacquie Rousseau* (October 14)
- **Reinvigorating School Culture Through Play** - *Tara Rossi* (October 15)



# Executive Director's Update

## Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

33 Forge Parkway | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | [msaa.net](http://msaa.net)

- **Components of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports, the Role of the S.S.T (Student Success Team) and the Effective Use of the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP): How Do These Three Structures Impact Inclusive Teaching and Learning?** - *Dr. Curtis A. Bates* (October 16, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM)
- **The Loneliness Epidemic and Secondary Education** - *Dr. Elvio Ferreira and Dr. Katie Warren* (October 17)
- **Becoming More Efficient with the Evaluation Process - Aligning the Essential Components of the Teacher Evaluation Process - to Build Educator Effectiveness** - *Bruce Michitson* (October 20, 8:30-11:30 AM)
- **Navigating Accountability in an Age of Change** - *Heidi Driscoll* (October 21, 8:30-3:00 PM)
- **Streamlining Educator Evaluation** - *Dr. Elvio Ferreira and Dr. Katie Warren* (October 22)
- **Fostering a Culture that Includes ALL Students in an Inclusionary, Diverse and Equitable Setting through Co-Teaching: What are the Necessary Components to be Successful?** - *Shannon Pirrello* (October 23, 8:30-11:30 AM Session)
- **How Do We Ensure that Specially Designed Instruction is Being Honored in the Co-Taught Classroom?** - *Shannon Pirrello* (October 23, 12:30-3:30 PM)
- **Sitting in the Big Chair: A Recipe to Land your First Principal Job** - *William Burkhead* (October 24)
- **A Toolkit for New School Leaders** - *Dr. William Whalen* (October 28)
- **Belonging, Significance, and Joy-Not Just for Kids-Building and Maintaining A Positive School Climate** - *Bill Knittle* (October 29)
- **What to Do About Students who Drink Alcohol, Use Marijuana, Ingest Edible Cannabis, Vape and/or Exhibit Negative Social Behaviors in Middle Schools and High Schools!** - *Thomas L. Brow, Jr.* (October 30, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM)

### New Special Education Committee Announced

The MSAA is proud to announce that there is a newly formed committee for Special Educators. This year we are planning a five-part series that focuses on current issues and "hot topics" specific to Special Educators. Our first Professional Development opportunity will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> and feature Attorney Catherine Lyons who will present on **Current Legal Issues in Special Education**. To register, please use this [link](#). Please plan on attending our first committee meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM at the MSAA Office in Franklin. Any questions, please contact Steve Dubzinski at [sdubzinski@miaa.net](mailto:sdubzinski@miaa.net).

### Call for Nominations: MA PreK-12 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year

MSAA will recognize Principals and Assistant Principals from High, Middle and Elementary Schools to represent our 2000+ MSAA school leaders from across the Commonwealth. We are asking you to please nominate your boss, one of your peers or even yourself. All it takes is one sentence email to Bonnie

LeMote at [blemote@msaa.net](mailto:blemote@msaa.net) naming the person you would like to nominate as one of our five Principals (3)/Assistant Principals (2) of the Year.

### The Soul of Leadership – Cohort 8

We lead who we are. As school leaders, we cultivate the culture in our schools. This culture reflects who we are and what we do. Research clearly shows that school leaders have a strong impact on student achievement, school climate and equity work. At the same time, leaders are experiencing substantial stress that can compromise their personal well-being and leadership. The challenges of leading today underscore the need for school leaders who can handle stress, build trust, and develop caring and culturally responsive schools. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

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

[Click here](#) to register Student Activities.

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

- Cheer Regionals: November 16
- Cheer States: November 22
- Dance States – November 10
- Game Day States – November 23

### Student Council

Congratulations to the following students who will serve on the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) Student Executive Board for the 2025-26 school year.

- President: Kate Carnahan, Longmeadow HS
- Vice President: Benjamin Bachand, Tantasqua RHS
- Secretary: Miya Gagne, Blackstone-Millville RHS

Delegates:

- Bryce Egeli, Nauset Reg. HS
- Natalia Panousos, North Reading HS
- Allie Roberts, North Andover HS
- Kathleen O'Reilly, Westborough HS
- SEMASC President: Jackson Taylor, Duxbury HS
- NEMASC President: Connor Colderwood, Amesbury HS
- CDMASC President: Rocco Sharma, Medfield HS
- WMASC President: Madisyn Slattery, Ware HS

The board members have been meeting throughout the summer to plan the theme and statewide events for the school year including:

- MASC Presidents Dinner – September 25
- MASC Officershop – October 25
- MASC Annual Conference – March 4-6

Registration information and additional details for these events will be sent to the MSAA membership and posted on the [Student Council page](#).



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

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

## National Student Council

Two Massachusetts students will be serving in leadership positions on the national level for the 2025-26 school year.

Shenaya Verma, a junior at North Reading High School was elected as the Vice President of Service and Michelly Silva, a senior at Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School was selected as the Massachusetts State Representative for the [NASSP National Student Council](#).

The NSC is a national body of middle and high school student leaders, elected and appointed from across the United States. It serves as a voice for students at the federal level, influencing educational policies and debates about school and student futures.

## Confidential Hotline

The Confidential Support Hotline continues to be 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.

## Calendar

- September 13 – MASC
- September 21-22 – Cheer Judges Clinic
- September 25 – MASC Presidents Dinner
- September 30 – School Year Kickoff Meeting
- October 25 – MASC Officershop


## MSAA/NHS Annual Fall Conference

Monday, November 10 at MSAA Office, Franklin  
Keynote Speaker [Anthony Valentine](#)  
[Click here](#) to register.

## Summer Institute

Once again the 2025 MSAA Summer Institute was a great success. Hope to see you next year July 21-23, 2026 with pre-conference workshop offerings on July 20, 2026

## M.A.S.S. Professional Learning Series Catalog


 Consistent with our strategic plan and supported with survey information from our members, this catalog provides a variety of learning opportunities in a variety of current leadership topics for interested members. You can access the catalog at the following [link](#).

**Thanks for your continued support!**

Robert Baldwin

## Helping educators succeed in and out of the classroom

Better benefits. Stronger schools. Happier educators.

 Horace Mann

Contact us to see how our products and programs can benefit your staff and help you attract and retain top talent.



-  Retirement Solutions
-  Auto Insurance
-  Property Insurance
-  Life Insurance
-  Supplemental Insurance
-  Workshops
-  Student Loan Solutions
-  Classroom Funding
-  Credit Tools

AM-C04862 (June 25)

[horacemann.com](#)