



# Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

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**From Executive Director Robert Baldwin**  
Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

**October 29, 2025**

## A message from MSAA Vice President

Dear Massachusetts School Administrators,

As National Principals Month comes to a close, we once again express our sincere gratitude for the dedication, resilience, and care you bring to your schools each and every day. Your work truly shapes the future of the communities you serve. It lives in the moments you create for students, the culture you shape with your staff, and the trust you build with families.

Throughout October, we have celebrated you, the leaders who rise early, stay late, and continually model what it means to lead with purpose. As we look ahead to the months to come, please remember that our appreciation does not fade with the turning of the calendar. The MSAA remains your partner in every aspect of your leadership. We are here to listen, support, and walk beside you in the important work you do.

At the same time, we also encourage you to look within your own school community for the next generation of leaders. Somewhere in your building, there is a teacher, counselor, or staff member who has the heart and potential to lead. Take a moment to tap them on the shoulder and share your story. Encourage them to join you in taking the courageous leap into leadership.

Finally, as you continue to lead with courage and compassion, may you find renewed energy in the impact you make every single day. You are the difference makers, and your influence echoes far beyond the walls of your school building.

With Gratitude,  
Stephen Wiltshire

## Tap on the Shoulder

The Tap on the Shoulder Initiative invites school leaders to recognize and support aspiring administrators who demonstrate leadership potential. [Click here](#) for information that outlines the purpose of the initiative. Please scan the QR code to share contact information for an emerging leader who is ready to take the next step in their professional journey. By giving a "Tap on the Shoulder," you help strengthen the future of educational leadership across Massachusetts.

## Professional Development Workshops for SY25-26!

[Click here](#) to view a complete list of Professional Development Offerings!

## [Click here](#) to register for The Legal Aspects of Special Education – November 17

**Jack and Terry O'Connor Fund for Educational Excellence and Innovation**





The MSAA is collaborating with the Jack and Terry O'Connor Foundation to provide professional opportunities for Educational Professionals in Massachusetts. The fund's intent is to identify programs of Excellence and Innovation and share these opportunities to promote school and district improvement.

This year, we have launched an initiative to include Special Education Professionals as part of the MSAA. In response to our members' request for more training, the following three Professional Development Workshops will be offered **free of charge** for our new members.

**Join today and receive THREE FREE PD Opportunities for Special Education Professionals**  
Non-Members: \$205 (per workshop)

**The Legal Aspects of Special Education**  
Presenter: Catherine L. Lyons Esq., Lyons Educational Law  
November 17, 2025 ~ 8:30-11:30am  
Attorney Catherine Lyons will lead a vital professional development session using a popular case study style to help all Special Education Professionals—from veterans to newcomers—navigate the ever-changing landscape of federal and state special education laws, guidelines, and best practices.

**Challenges and Celebrations of Practices**  
Presenter: Kim Woodford, Special Education Administrator  
January 15, 2026 ~ 8:30-11:30am  
Leveraging the vast, multi-level experience of retired Special Education Director Kim Woodford, this interactive and relaxed session invites Team Chairs, Coordinators, and Teachers to share ideas, problem solve common challenges, and learn from field practitioners through specific case studies and current school/district challenges.

**Behavioral Blindspots: Overlooked Strategies to Effectively Support Students with Social Emotional Challenges**  
Presenter: Jessica Minahan, Ph.D., BCBA  
February 26, 2026 ~ 8:30-11:30am  
Jessica Minahan, Ph.D. an internationally recognized BCBA and Special Education Professional, specializes in training school staff to create behavior intervention plans that effectively combine behavioral strategies with best practices for students with complex mental health profiles, anxiety, trauma histories, and challenging behaviors.

Workshops were made possible through the generous support of the following donors:

- The Battles Foundation
- John & Linda Chermaly
- Mr. George L. Duncan
- The Rickard K. and Nancy L. Donahue Charitable Foundation

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## [Click here](#) to RSVP for the Aspiring Administrators

**Aspiring Administrators: Growing Courageous Leaders**



The Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA) is pleased to host an **Aspiring Administrators Panel** designed to provide teachers, department heads, fellows, assistant principals, principals, and other educators an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about school and district leadership.

Educational leaders will introduce and moderate topics, fostering a supportive and collaborative discussion among all participants.

**Aspiring Administrators Panel - Discussion Topics:**

- On the Verge of a New Adventure: Getting the Job (interview strategies, contract negotiation, entry planning)
- The Many Lenses of Administration
- Using Your Superpowers for Good: Building School Culture and Motivating Students and Staff
- The Role of Athletics in School Leadership



**Dr. Robert N. Baldwin**  
Executive Director, MSAA/MIAA



**Karen Crebase**  
Superintendent, Hopedale Public Schools



**Martin R. Geoghegan**  
Principal, Henri A. Yello Elementary School, Norton Public Schools



**Craig Aarons-Martin**  
Founder & CEO, CCM Education Group | Black Boy Joy Summit



**Michael Rubin**  
Former Headmaster, East Boston High School and MSAA/MIAA Assistant Director



**Stephanie Sibley**  
Principal, William Monroe Trotter K-8 School, Boston Public Schools

**Aspiring Administrators Panel Information**

December 8, 2025
8:30-9:00am Sign-in  
9:00-11:00am Discussion
33 Forge Pkwy  
Franklin, MA 02038
Click Here to RSVP  
by December 3, 2025