



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

May 20, 2026

2026-2027 MSAA Critical Friends Network Launch

For the 2026–27 school year, MSAA is excited to launch a new opportunity for members to connect, collaborate, and support one another through the MSAA Critical Friends Network.

Our goal is to create intentional spaces where MSAA members can connect authentically, grow professionally, and build supportive leadership communities throughout the year. These ongoing communities will provide a welcoming and safe space for members to:

- Build meaningful professional connections
- Share experiences, resources, and ideas
- Encourage and support one another
- Discuss challenges and successes in leadership

Each group will:

- Meet virtually once a month for one hour (September 2026-June 2027). The group will determine the monthly day and time (after school hours).
- Gather in person once each year for networking

We are pleased to begin offering the following MSAA Critical Friends Network groups for the 2026–2027 school year:

Assistant Principals ([click here](#) to sign up)

Facilitator: *Erica M. Pasquarelli, Assistant Principal, Freshman Academy at Beverly High School, Member of the MSAA Board of Directors*

Leaders of Color ([click here](#) to sign up)

Women in Leadership ([click here](#) to sign up)

Facilitator: *Kelley St. Coeur, Principal, Ashland High School, Member of the MSAA Board of Directors*

The Science of Reading (PreK-12) ([click here](#) to sign up)

Facilitator: *Brenda Kelley, Principal, Morris Elementary School, Member of the MSAA Board of Directors, and 2024 MSAA Principal of the Year*

Additional groups may be added based on members interest.

SY26-27 Administrators Coaching/Mentoring Program. Help New Leaders Thrive!

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. 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](#).

2026 MSAA Summer Institute

Featuring keynote speakers Hamish Brewer, Duncan Kirkwood, and Brian McCann as well as the Commissioner of Education on Friday morning. [Click here](#) to register for full conference.

Pre-Conference Workshops (Tuesday, July 21)

- [From Staff Meetings to Student Success: AI In Action](#) - Dr. Michael Rubin, Principal, Uxbridge High School
- [Who's Really Struggling?](#) - Tara Trainor, Education Consultant, Curriculum Director of Oxford Public Schools
- [Leading with Soul: Developing Capacity and Ownership as an Indelible Leader](#) Dr. Curtis Bates, Seaside Educational Consultant

Applications Closing Soon for the 2026-27 LLP Cohort

The LLP Cohort offers a practitioner-led path to leadership, combining flexible licensure routes with a built-in professional network designed to help educators transition into administration with confidence.

Key Program Highlights:

- **Expert Instruction:** Learn directly from active leaders navigating the real-world complexities of today's schools
- **Built-In Support:** Join a cohort-based Professional Learning Community (PLC) that provides a career-long support system
- **Leadership Ready:** Transition from the classroom to administration with a framework built for high-performing educators
- **Flexible Licensure:** Choose between the 21-credit AIC track or the 253 PDP option to earn licensure for administrative and supervisory roles
- Provisional or Initial Licensure in 11 months

This is your last chance to join the 2026-2027 Cohort Applications close May 26, 2026. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

The Real Cost of Cutting Assistant Principals

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a document that the State of Washington is sharing widely with their members to equip them with talking points grounded in research related to consequences associated with cutting Assistant Principals.

Summer Office Hours

The MIAA offices will close at noon on Fridays beginning June 26th through September 4th. The office will also be closed July 27 through July 31.

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin