



The Voice to Advocate • Support • Educate

Massachusetts
Administrators of Special Education



An Affiliate of CASE/CEC

MASSACHUSETTS ADMINISTRATORS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

June 11, 2018 Statewide Conference

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts

Special Message: (MA)
Congressman Seth
Moulton

The State of the State:

***Educating, Protecting and Advocating for Massachusetts
Students with Disabilities - A Community Responsibility and
Commitment***

KEYNOTE 1:

***The State of The State: Supporting The Commonwealth's Children - The Massachusetts Office of the
Child Advocate***

SESSION FOCUS:

This keynote presentation will provide an overview of the role of the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), including initiatives that support its mission of improving state agency services for children and families, and its current work in the special education sphere. There will be a discussion of the history of special education in Massachusetts followed by what changes in policy and practice can help us better meet the needs of today's special needs students. The keynote will also provide updates on evidence-based strategies for how schools and state agencies can collaborate to improve outcomes for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable special needs children and their families.

KEYNOTE 1 PRESENTER:

Maria Z. Mossaides, Massachusetts Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate, attorney, advocate and child welfare specialist



KEYNOTE 2:

***The State of the State: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
News and Updates - Moving Forward and Building Upon the Lessons Learned During the 2017-2018
School Year.***

SESSION FOCUS:

This Keynote will highlight lessons learned from this school year with a focus on new information for school administrators and teams. The presentation will include topics such as significant disproportionality, timely advisories, strategies for schools interfacing with DCF and highlights of new initiatives for 2018-2019, with a discussion on special education administration leadership, striving to influence the best possible outcomes for students with special education needs, including strategies for schools/teams for continuous improvement in equity for students with disabilities. Additionally, there will be a brief discussion on the future of the Massachusetts ED Boarding Project and School/DESE connections/expectations.

KEYNOTE 2 PRESENTER:

Dr. Russell Johnston, Senior Associate Commissioner, State Director of Special Education, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, former Massachusetts superintendent and special education administrator.



,,, continued ...

KEYNOTE 3:

The State of the State: Federal Special Education Policy - News, Updates, Implications for Massachusetts

SESSION FOCUS:

This Keynote will provide an analysis of “breaking” federal special education policy being addressed by the U.S. Congress and Administration including implications for the anticipated effects on student services and grant funding. The presentation will highlight new, relevant special education policies and those long standing policies needing to be preserved. Strategies for advocacy will be discussed for Massachusetts’ special education administrators and teams for the purpose of ensuring high quality outcomes for students, as well as supporting the needs of administrators who work on their behalf, including a discussion on the benefits of joint advocacy.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER:

Dr. Deborah A. Ziegler, Director, Policy and Advocacy, Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), national expert on special education policy and advocacy



KEYNOTE 4:

The Commonwealth’s Autism Commission - Moving Forward to Greater State Agency Support for Students with Autism - The Promise and The Commitment

SESSION FOCUS:

This Keynote will provide an overview of the Autism Commission, the Autism Omnibus Law, and changes that have resulted since its enactment. The presentation will provide an update on the Autism Commission’s current work and statutory charge to make policy recommendations impacting individuals with autism spectrum disorder of all ages, and will discuss the challenges, opportunities and strategies for State agency and school collaboration to improve support services for student with autism.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER:

Carolyn Kain, Esq., Executive Director, The Massachusetts Autism Commission



PLENARY SESSION:

“Legal and Legislative Matters Matter” - Knowledge is Power

SESSION FOCUS:

This program segment will highlight legal and legislative updates for the Spring 2018, including new special education cases from the BSEA and federal courts and recent proposed and enacted legislation. The session will also provide an overview of “hot topics in education law,” to provide you with proactive approaches in leading school special education teams, with a focus on strategies and techniques to improve outcomes for students and school districts.

PRESENTER:

Paige Tobin, Esq., Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, PC., legal and legislative expert in special education, counsel to Massachusetts school districts and consultant to the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education