



MASSACHUSETTS ADMINISTRATORS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ... THEME & PRESENTATION DESCRIPTORS
The Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts

***The State of the State: The View on Special Education and Related Topics
from the Perspective of Massachusetts State Leaders
“Our Students & Families – Our Most Important Educational Responsibility & Accountability”***

Please note the following Conference times:

7: 45am-9:00am Conference Registration **8:00am to 8:55am** Full Buffet Breakfast
The Conference Program will begin promptly at **9:00am** The Conference will end at approximately **2:00pm**

KEYNOTE

Social-Emotional Learning – A Lens on Kids, Classrooms, & Climate

Session Focus: There’s no denying that human beings are social and emotional beings. There *should* be no denying that schools for human beings are designed with social and emotional development in mind. However, most schools are still catching up with that notion. In this session, we will share brain research that leads us to use SEL as a lens on everything students experience in school, and explore connections to curriculum, classroom practices, and school climate. We’ll identify SEL skills that conference attendees can implement in their own practice, and introduce a path of advocacy for efforts that benefit all students and adults.

Presenter: Rachel Poliner, Founding Partner, Leaders & Learners Consulting - Author, *Teaching the Whole Teen*

PLENARY SESSION

***The Endrew F. Supreme Court FAPE Decision and Other Related Legal Issues/Concerns:
Putting Things into Perspective***

Session Focus: On March 22, 2017, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in the Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District. The high court ruled that more benefit than the “*more than trivial or de minimis*” standard used by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals must be provided to special education students. Among the questions our presenters will address are:

- ✓ How might this impact or change Team decisions in Massachusetts?
- ✓ What types of strategies/techniques should school Teams consider when questions/concerns relative to this decision are brought forward by parents or advocates?
- ✓ Might this have an impact on future BSEA decisions?

Additionally, our presenters will address other related legal issues that may be of importance to special education administrators and school Teams.

Presenters: Paige Tobin, Esq., Principal, Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, P.C., Counsel to the MA Administrators for Special Education
Amy Reichbach, Esq., Hearing Officer, Massachusetts Bureau of Special Education Appeals

PLENARY SESSION

Massachusetts Safe and Supportive School Commission: Updates and Future Considerations for Our Schools

Session Focus: As stated in the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission Second Annual Report, “*Creating and maintaining safe and supportive schools is an increasingly important focal point for communities across the Commonwealth, beyond an essential focus on academic success. Preparing all students for success in school, the workplace, and civic life includes developing students’ social emotional competencies and attending to their health and wellbeing.*” This session will focus on Commission initiatives including those related to school and parent engagement, and provide information about the Department’s strategic priority work related to supporting social emotional learning, health, and safety.

Presenter: Rachelle Engler Bennett, Associate Commissioner, Student and Family Support, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

PLENARY SESSION

The Mental Health Needs of Children and Families

Session Focus: The Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL) is a statewide family organization dedicated to improving the mental health and well being of children, youth and families through education, advocacy and partnership. The goal of the PPAL is to provide hope for children with mental health needs and their families through education, advocacy, outreach and support. The PPAL is the only Massachusetts organization whose work focuses solely on the interests of families whose children have mental health needs. This session will focus on the Massachusetts Mental Health Mandates specific our students and families and will provide an overview of the collaborative efforts needed to ensure that children and families receive the necessary supports needed for successful outcomes.

Presenter: Lisa Lambert, Executive Director, Parent/Professional Advocacy League, “*The Massachusetts Family Voice for Children’s Mental Health*”

***“If kids come to educators and teachers from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier.
If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.” ~ Barbara Colorose***