



**June 10, 2021 Virtual Conference**

**❧ The State of the State ❧**

***Designing and Adjusting to the “New Normal”***

***As We Return to School from the Pandemic***

**Featuring Presentations by State Experts/Leaders in Education,  
Law and Legislation**



***Special Guest Speaker: The Honorable, Rep. Alice Hanlon Peisch***

**Massachusetts Legislation**

*From the Lens Massachusetts House, Joint Committee on Education: The state of the state, anticipating the future, highlights of education and special education legislation including the challenges and opportunities for Massachusetts School districts.*

**PRESENTER:**

*The Honorable, Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch (Esq.), House Chair, Joint Committee on Education, advocate for education, member of: Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, House Committee on Ethics, House Committee on Rules, Joint Committee on Rules, former member of Wellesley Public School Committee, Wellesley Advisory Finance Committee*



***Plenary Session: Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate***

**Massachusetts State Child Advocacy**

*From the Lens of The Office of the Child Advocate: advocating for Massachusetts children and families -- highlighting lessons learned from the pandemic, moving forward joint collaboration between child serving agencies and school districts, including suggested recommendations for school districts.*

**PRESENTER:** *Maria Mossaides, Esq. Director, Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate, former: Executive Director Cambridge Family and Children Services, Acting Commissioner, Office of Children and consultant to US Office of Civil Rights*



## **Plenary Session: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

### **Massachusetts Special Education**

*From the Lens of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE): Special Education/public schools foreseeing the future - What will it look like in regard to strengthening the outcomes for students with disabilities and collaborating with families, highlights on equity, diversity, and culturally responsive leadership as envisioned by DESE.*

#### **PRESENTER:**

*Russell Johnston, Ph.D., Senior Associate Commissioner and State Director of Special Education, The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, former; MA Superintendent of Schools, Special Education Director, special education teacher*



## **Plenary Session: Legal and Legislative Matters, Matter**

### **Massachusetts and Federal Special Education**

*From the Lens of Paige Tobin, Esq. Legal and Legislative Matters, Matter: anticipating the Future — special education issues for school districts as we look ahead to the “new normal,” students and families – discussion of proactive strategies for school districts to support parent engagement and compliance. The session will also include federal and state issues regarding special education, including targeted advocacy during 2020-2021.*

#### **PRESENTER:**

*Paige Tobin, Esq., Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, P.C., special education counsel to Massachusetts public school districts, consultant to ASE, adjunct faculty Bay Path University, lecturer, member Massachusetts Council of School Attorneys and Massachusetts Bar Association*



## **Plenary Session: Integrative Systems of Support: State Funded**

### **Systemic Student Support (S3) Academy: Co-ordinated MTSS Model: State Funded**

*From the Lens of the Systemic Student Support (S3) Academy, a partnership between the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy and Boston College’s Center for Optimized Student Support (COSS), a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education supported program focused on research and best practices of integrated student support. Focused on building effective systems of coordinated support for all students; the model is evidenced based, wrapping all three tiers (MTSS) of support. Integrated student support is a strength based and whole child approach to coordinating MTSS within schools and districts for prevention, intervention and direct service support for each and*

every student. Districts and schools are eligible for this unique, three-year program, paid for by DESE and coordinated by the Rennie Center and Boston College's COSS.

**PRESENTER:**

*Elle Jansen, Associate Rennie Center, Rebecca Lebowitz, Senior Manager of Learning and Development, Rennie Center) COSS, co-facilitators S3 Academy*



**Plenary Session: Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center**

**Public Education- Financing**

*From the Lens of the Mass Budget and Policy Center, the Massachusetts Budget (including information on federal financial support to states) regarding overall implications for school districts, students, equity issues in educational state finances; foreseeing the future financial education landscape following the pandemic, with focus on early and K-12 education policy and finance.*

**PRESENTER:**

*Colin Jones, Senior Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, MPP Harvard Kennedy School of Government, B.A. Oberlin College*



***“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new”***  
SOCRATES

**CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 9:00AM  
REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE MAY 21, 2021 (COB)**

