MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION,
THE MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION,
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, MASSACHUSETTS and
THE BOSTON TEACHERS UNION

WHEREAS: The safety and well-being of students, families, and staff has been and continues
to be our top priority as an educational community.

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE),
the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), the American Federation of
Teachers (AFT-MA), and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) are working together
collaboratively to support a successful start to the new school year.

WHEREAS: DESE, MTA, AFT-MA and BTU recognize and agree that in light of the COVID-
19 pandemic, providing additional time for our educators and staff to prepare
prior to the start of instruction of students is important for a safe and successful
fall reopening.

NOW, THEREFORE:

1. DESE agrees that school districts will have 10 additional days at the start
of the 2020-2021 school year before instruction of students begins, to work
with educators to prepare for the new school year.

2. The Commissioner will reduce the 180-day and student learning time
requirements for the 2020-2021 school year to 170-days and 850 hours (for
elementary schools) and 935 hours (for secondary schools) so long as districts
begin providing instruction to students no later than September 16, 2020. If a
district is unable to meet the September 16, 2020 requirement, it may apply
for a waiver.

For the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner

7/27/2020
For the Massachusetts Teachers Association:

Merrie Najimy, President

Date

7/27/2020

For the American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts:

Beth Kontos, President

Date

7/27/2020

For the Boston Teachers Union:

Jessica Tang, President

Date

7/27/2020