

# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

---

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner

June 17, 2022

By email

Michelle Wu, Mayor  
City of Boston  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, MA 02201  
[mayor@boston.gov](mailto:mayor@boston.gov)

Dear Mayor Wu,

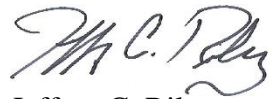
Thank you for sending your June 10 version of the Systemic Improvement Plan for the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

As you know, one of the sticking points in our discussions has been the structure of the document. For the reasons I expressed in my letter to you dated May 31, 2022, the Systemic Improvement Plan is designed to clearly identify the steps Boston and BPS will take to address the serious deficiencies identified in the District Review Report. DESE's role will be to continue to monitor the district and provide oversight in its capacity as the State Education Authority. Assuming we reach agreement on the Plan, DESE will also support the efforts Boston and BPS are undertaking in the Systemic Improvement Plan by providing targeted financial support and appropriate technical assistance, as we have described in Appendix B.

I understand that it is important to you that I sign the Systemic Improvement Plan. For the reasons provided above and in my May 31, 2022 letter, I cannot sign the Plan as a party to the document. However, in a good faith effort to meet your request, I am willing to sign the Plan in my capacity as Commissioner to accept the Plan.

I have enclosed an updated version of the Systemic Improvement Plan. As you will see, DESE has incorporated many of Boston/BPS's proposed changes. Of note, DESE has reincorporated details related to the appointment of an independent auditor. DESE continues to believe that third-party access to and review of BPS data will give all parties and stakeholders confidence that mutually agreed upon benchmarks are being met. We look forward to hearing from you no later than Tuesday, June 21, 2022. If this version of the Systemic Improvement Plan is not acceptable to Boston/BPS, I will request to meet with you in the short term to discuss possible next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.C. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner