

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:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner

7/27/2020

Date

For the Massachusetts Teachers Association:

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*Merrie Najimy*  
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Merrie Najimy, President

7/27/2020  
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Date

For the American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts:

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*Beth Kontos*  
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Beth Kontos, President

7/27/2020  
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Date

For the Boston Teachers Union:

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*Jessica Tang*  
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Jessica Tang, President

7/27/2020  
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Date