*****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

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

June 27, 2022

The Honorable Michelle Wu  
Mayor, City of Boston

1 City Hall Square, Suite 550

Boston, MA 02201

Jeri Robinson

Chair, Boston School Committee

2300 Washington Street

Roxbury, MA 02119

Brenda Cassellius

Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

2300 Washington Street

Roxbury, MA 02119

Subject: Appendix B to the City of Boston and Boston Public Schools Systemic Improvement Plan

Dear Mayor Wu, Chair Robinson, and Superintendent Cassellius:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will support the work Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Schools (BPS or the district) are undertaking to address the urgent concerns identified in DESE’s recent district review report of the district. DESE and BPS agree that the March 10, 2020 MOU between them is terminated, and the supports identified below supersede those included in the MOU and any amendments.

**Financial Support**

DESE will provide BPS with $10 million in contracted services, in-kind resources, and targeted grants sought by BPS to support the work identified in the Systemic Improvement Plan. This $10 million will be provided to BPS over a three-year period (i.e., an average of $3.3 million a year for three years). Among other purposes, these funds may be used to support the district as follows:

* To commission the independent student and staff safety audit;
* To engage the consulting team on special education and support implementation of the district inclusion policy;
* To create or procure an observation tool for English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to support school leadership teams in assessing the quality of ESL instruction, consistent with BPS’s curriculum;
* To conduct a diagnostic evaluation of BPS’s transportation system that seeks to identify efficiencies, and opportunities for improvement;
* To provide ongoing technical assistance on how the district could create community and vendor workforce pipelines;
* To provide professional development and training to BPS staff consistent with the Systemic Improvement Plan; and
* To support the continuing work of the Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning.

**Technical Assistance**

Complaint Resolution

* By August 15, 2022, DESE will begin to provide periodic trainings for BPS central office and building leaders, tailored to the specific needs of BPS, with a focus on understanding guidance within DESE’s PRS Complaint Procedures Guide.
* In the fall of 2022, DESE will offer a training for district human resources staff about the ESL emergency licenses and SEI endorsement topics.

English learners

* DESE will complete a previously scheduled Tiered Focus Monitoring Review of BPS’s English Learner program and will provide technical assistance as appropriate following that review.

Data

* Within a reasonable period of time following receipt of the necessary information from all school districts, DESE will provide BPS with a comprehensive list of all students included in the current four graduation cohorts. The file will identify each student’s accountable school, graduation cohort year, and last-recorded enrollment status.

Facilities

* By September 8, 2022, DESE will identify a point-person who will inspect student bathroom facilities on an agreed-upon, ongoing schedule to confirm that these essential facilities are properly maintained throughout the school year.

**School Supports**

Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning

* In addition to providing some financial support for the Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning, DESE will also assign one or more DESE staff members to work with BPS to support the schools in the Kaleidoscope network.

Performance Management System

* In addition to providing some financial support for the Performance Management System, DESE will also assign one or more DESE staff members to the project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education