



When students go deep in their learning, they turn every challenge into an opportunity to shine.

Student Opportunity Act January 23, 2020

The SOA is providing a significant infusion of new funds, with every district receiving at least some increase in Chapter 70

As a result of this progressive school funding formula, 35+ districts are receiving 85% of the new Chapter 70 money

In an effort to close persistent achievement gaps, all districts are required to submit three-year evidence-based plans to the Commissioner.

Recognizing that the funds are not evenly distributed across all districts, DESE will have a "short form" plan (~2 pages) for most districts and "long form" plan for those receiving significant funds



Four statutory requirements for district evidence-based plans Goal of plans is to reduce "persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups"

3 Resource allocation plan

What resources can be allocated to these programs?

1 Evidence based practices

What new programs will best reduce disparities for student subgroups?

- ✓ Expanded learning time (day or year: e.g., acceleration academies)
- ✓ Common planning time for teachers
- ✓ Social-emotional and physical health services
- ✓ Hiring school personnel to improve student performance
- ✓ Increased or improved PD (e.g., principal training / pipelines)
- Curriculum materials/equipment aligned to state standards
- ✓ Expanding early education and pre-kindergarten programming
- ✓ Diversifying the educator and administrator workforce
- Additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness (e.g., early college)

**Or any other program determined to be evidence-based by the Commissioner



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Outcome metrics What will we track to ensure improvement in

student subgroup performance?



DESE's approach to the district SOA plans

X NOT a bureaucratic exercise

to meet compliance requirements

X NOT a comprehensive strategic plan with 20+ different priorities and initiatives Instead, SOA plans will ask districts to:

- Do a few things: Make a few bold, public commitments to programs that put kids first
- Do the right things: Adopt proven, evidence-based programs



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Make it easy to make good choices: DESE will provide a menu of evidence-based initiatives districts can select from

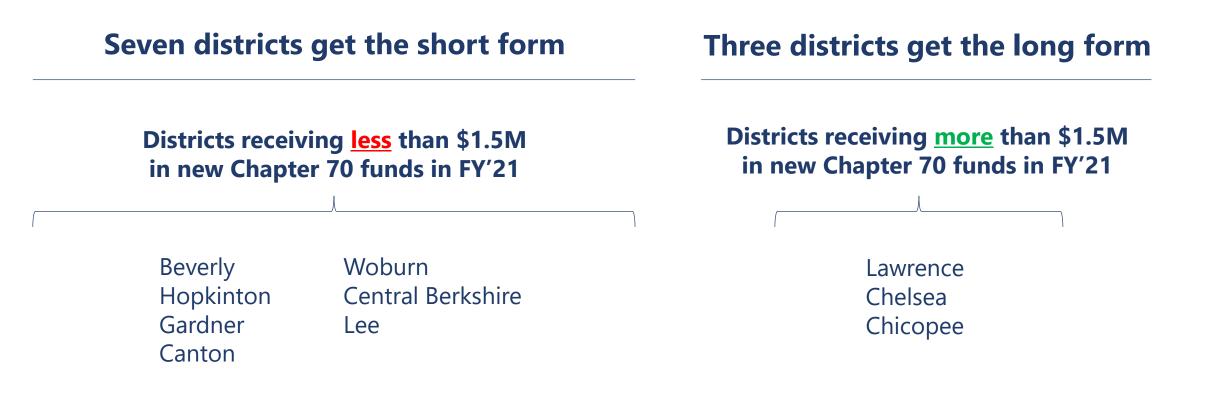
Incentivize adoption of 2-3 "Commissioner Priority" strategies across districts, ideally through competitive grants

- 1. Full-day, high-quality Pre-K for all four-year-olds & evidence-based early literacy
- 2. Increase percentage of high school students enrolled in **early college**
- Recruitment and retention strategies to diversify the educator and administrator workforce

Districts can also submit programs outside of the menu in their plans, but they will require Commissioner review

DESE is using a bifurcated approach for the SOA plans based on new Chapter 70 funds received in FY'21

Example: 10 actual districts....



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Key dates this year for SOA plans



Late January:

- Jan. 22: Governor Baker releases House 2 budget numbers
- Plan templates & guidance document released to districts

February - March:

- Districts work with local stakeholders to develop plans DESE for review
- DESE supports with technical assistance
- Local school committees should vote on plans before they are submitted to DESE

April 1: Plans due to

May - June: Inform districts if plans require amendments



Late January: Templates and guidance documents released

First week in February: Informational webinars (will host separate sessions for short vs. long form districts)

Anytime: Email <u>SOAplans@doe.mass.edu</u> with questions

