



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

## **On the Desktop - April 3, 2020**

### **April Vacation**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and Assistant Superintendents,

We have received questions about whether school districts should keep their planned April school vacation week this year (the week of Patriots' Day, April 20) or use that week to continue the remote learning plan they have put in place. **This is a local decision.** Each school committee or public school board of trustees establishes the school year schedule for its schools, consistent with state standards outlined in the [Student Learning Time regulations](#). Within those standards, the school committee or board may adjust the school calendar to meet the needs of its community, subject to collective bargaining as applicable.

For school districts that are considering using part or all of the April vacation week to provide continuity of learning for students, please note that Patriots' Day is a statewide legal holiday.

In the [On the Desktop](#) message, "Coronavirus Updates on 180-Day Requirement and More," dated March 10, I stated that the longest any school district would be required to go in the current school year is its scheduled 185<sup>th</sup> day, although a district could decide to go longer. If a school district continues providing its remote learning program for students from April 21 to 24, the district is not required to go beyond its previously scheduled 181<sup>st</sup> day. Districts that maintain the April vacation week as a school vacation will be expected to resume their remote learning program on April 27 and conclude the school year no earlier than the previously scheduled 185<sup>th</sup> day.

Whichever way you decide to use the week of April 20 for your school community, we appreciate all the thoughtful work that districts and educators are doing to maintain strong connections with students and promote their well-being and continued learning during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner