



## MARCH 2021 MASS MEETING UPDATES FROM THE OPI

Below are key talking points from the OPI Executive Staff to be shared with the MASS Regions AS OF 2.24.2021

### **ESSER II -Funding**

The legislative Section E is working on the 10% set-aside ESSER II funding and how it be appropriated. When the final appropriation is completed, an update will be provided.

### **ASSESSMENT WAIVER**

President Biden has stated that testing must occur for transparency purposes. Superintendent Arntzen is in communication with other State Chiefs and has delegated two OPI experts to attend a meeting on this matter February 24, 2021.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

The OPI has been working diligently with a flurry of legislative activity as transmittal day loom. Transmittal is the time when approved bills are exchanged between the two houses.

CSCT programs have legislative eyes on the program. The Governor's budget office has indicated that the state general fund match is unsustainable, and a different option must be found. The OPI is working with legislative fiscal, DPHHS, the Governor's Office, MTSBA and MASBO on this issue. Future updates will be forthcoming.

### **VIRTUAL CONFERENCES**

The **OPI Summer Institute's** fate is being discussed by agency staff and whether the capacity to provide a comprehensive summer conference is possible. The OPI anticipates have a final decision by mid-March. Stay tuned.

The agency is in planning stages for a Virtual Education Job Fair tentatively set for mid-April. One of the goals of the agency is to support recruitment and retention with excellent service.

### **CHAPTERS 57 AND 58**

The OPI will be sending a survey to school districts related to teacher licensing and post-secondary educator preparation. Your input will be valuable as it will aid in crafting the discussion of the focus groups and the Task Force for each chapter moving forward.

