

Professional Development Program

February 4, 2026
DoubleTree Milford

Networking and News

8:00	Breakfast	11:40	Board Candidates
8:45	Welcome	12:00	Lunch
10:00	Break	3:00	Board Meeting - All Members Welcome!
11:15	Pipeline Advisory		PSP Debrief - Participants Only

Learning

9:00 The New Fiscal Reality: How State & Federal Policy Shifts Shape Public Finance in Massachusetts

Doug Howgate, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

Massachusetts school districts are navigating a rapidly shifting fiscal landscape — from changes in state revenues and Chapter 70 trends to federal appropriations, grant cycles, and the winding down of emergency relief funds. In this session, Mass Taxpayers Foundation President Doug Howgate will break down the latest developments on Beacon Hill and in Washington, analyze the drivers shaping the FY26 budget and beyond, and translate complex revenue and policy trends into practical implications for district budgeting. Participants will gain a clear, data-informed view of what's ahead for school finance and how to plan strategically amid uncertainty.

10:15 From First Draft to Full Drill: Building a Strong School Reunification Plan

Paul Dart, Director of Finance and Operations, Falmouth
Bryce Harper, Executive Director of Technology, Barnstable
Michael MacMillan, School Business Manager, Monomoy
Patrick Murphy, Business Manager, Cape Cod Collaborative

School reunification is one of the most critical—and most complex—components of school emergency response. In this session, presenters at different stages of implementation will share practical steps for moving from initial planning to a fully developed reunification plan that has been practiced regularly. Attendees will hear real-world lessons learned, sample workflows, and common pitfalls to avoid when coordinating with families, staff, first responders, and community partners. Whether you're just getting started, refining an existing process, or strengthening early emergency planning efforts, you'll leave with clear next actions to improve readiness and confidence in a reunification event.

1:15 An Overview of the Governor's Budget

Robert F. O'Donnell, School Finance Director, DESE

Learn more about Governor Healey's proposed FY27 budget, including Chapter 70 aid, charter school tuition reimbursements, Circuit Breaker, and transportation reimbursements.

2:00 The Classroom of Tomorrow

Leo Brehm, District Business Administrator for Finance and Operations, Dighton-Rehoboth
Andrea Calvin, Director of Operations and Strategy, MassCUE
Grace Magley, Executive Director, MassCUE

Join MassCUE leaders to explore how today's innovations are transforming classrooms and shaping education policy. This engaging session features live demonstrations of Artificial Intelligence and immersive Virtual and Augmented Reality (XR) technologies in action. Participants will learn how these tools impact student learning, educator practice, and district operations, while considering the leadership and policy frameworks needed for responsible implementation. Attendees will leave with practical insights to help their districts prepare for the classroom of tomorrow.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations MUST be received in writing no later than January 28 in order to avoid being charged.



Upcoming Programs

[Professional Development Calendar](#)