



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **LEADERS TO GATHER FOR “STATE OF THE STATE” OF EDUCATION EVENT**

*State leaders including Secretary of Education James Peyser and Department of Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago join educators and students to discuss future of education in Massachusetts*

The [Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy](http://renniecenter.org) invites journalists to the release of its annual *Condition of Education in the Commonwealth* report. This report looks at state-level indicators of school performance, highlighting successes while zeroing in on areas in need of improvement.

This year’s report examines the role students play in shaping our education system. While educators and leaders are dedicated to improving schools for students, students themselves are rarely given a seat at the table where decisions about their education are being made. The *Condition of Education* report offers recommendations for elevating the voice of students in classrooms, schools, and communities.

The report features local programs that prioritize student voice. Examples include Generation Citizen (a nonprofit organization working with districts throughout the state), Sociedad Latina and Youth on Board in Boston, and programs within Andover Public Schools, Monomoy Regional School District, Waltham High School, and Worcester Public Schools.

**WHEN:** January 24, 2019  
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Omni Parker House Hotel, Rooftop Ballroom  
Boston, MA

**WHO:** More than 300 people are expected to attend the event including legislators, state officials, school and district leaders, educators, students, and representatives from non-profit and community-based organizations.

*Speakers:*

- **Chad d’Entremont**, Executive Director, The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy
- **Carla Duran Capellan**, Middlesex Community College Student
- **Amanda Fernández**, Member of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/CEO of Latinos for Education
- **Adria Goodson**, Chief Program Officer, The Pahara Institute

- **Maya Mathews**, Student Member of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/Newton North High School Student
- **James Peyser**, Massachusetts Secretary of Education
- **Carlos Santiago**, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- **Bianca Vázquez Toness**, Managing Editor and Correspondent for K-12 Education, WGBH Radio
- **Joan Wasser Gish**, Member of the Massachusetts Board of Early Education/Director of Strategic Initiatives, Boston College's Center for Optimized Student Support

**CONTACT:** For questions, to RSVP, or to receive an embargoed copy of the report in advance please contact Catherine Rauseo at [crauseo@renniecenter.org](mailto:crauseo@renniecenter.org).

*The Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy's mission is to improve public education through well-informed decision-making based on deep knowledge and evidence of effective policymaking and practice. As Massachusetts' preeminent voice in public education reform, we create open spaces for educators and policymakers to consider evidence, discuss cutting-edge issues, and develop new approaches to advance student learning and achievement. Through our staunch commitment to independent, non-partisan research and constructive conversations, we work to promote an education system that provides every child with the opportunity to be successful in school and in life. For more information, please visit [www.renniecenter.org](http://www.renniecenter.org).*

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