

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 26-21

BOARD DATE: October 1, 2025

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOVED: That the Board of Higher Education approve the schedule of regular and special board meetings for Fiscal Year 2026 (Academic Year 2025-2026); provided further that this motion supersedes and revokes BHE Motion 24-45.

VOTED: Motion adopted by the BHE on 10/1/2025.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, § 4(f); *By-Laws of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education*, Article II.

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel

Fiscal Year 2026 (Academic Year 2025-2026) Board Meeting Schedule

Pursuant to its enabling legislation, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) is required to meet no fewer than six times per year, and at least once every two months (omitting meetings in the months of July and August). M.G.L. c. 15A, §4(f). Additional meetings (e.g., special meetings) may be called by the Chair. M.G.L. c. 15A, §4(f); BHE By-Laws, Article II, Section 2.

As set forth below, the proposed meeting schedule, spaced at intervals of no more than two months and excluding July and August, adheres to statutory requirements and seeks to ensure regular, consistent engagement, while also allowing flexibility for additional or special sessions, as necessitated by the Chair of the Board.

For state fiscal year 2026 (academic year 2025-2026) the following BHE regular¹ board meeting schedule is proposed:

- Wednesday, October 1, 2025
- Tuesday, October 28, 2025
- Tuesday, December 9, 2026
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026
- Tuesday, April 7, 2026
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - please note: the Board will convene *in-person* for this regular board meeting

The Board of Higher Education will hold its annual retreat on January 13, 2026.

In addition, the Board acknowledges the following dates have been reserved as potential special meetings, scheduled in advance to support members' planning and to serve as placeholders should important or time-sensitive matters require Board action:

- Tuesday, November 25, 2025
- Tuesday, March 17, 2026
- Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Time and Place.

In accordance with Article II, Section 1 of the BHE By-Laws, the Chair of the Board, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall establish the time and venue for regular Board meetings. All BHE regular board meetings shall begin at 10:00 a.m., unless the Commissioner and the Board Chair designate an alternative time.

¹ Please note that under state law a BHE member forfeits their seat on the board and ceases to be a member if absent from four regularly scheduled meetings during an academic year. See M.G.L. c. 15A, §4(d).

To ensure effective governance and participation, a minimum of two meetings each academic/ fiscal year will be convened in person. As noted above, the May 19, 2026 meeting will be held *in person*. The determination of the location for the May 19th meeting, as well as any other in-person gatherings, will be made by the Board Chair, in consultation with the Commissioner. BHE By-Laws, Article II, Section 1.

Acknowledging the dynamic nature of current circumstances, the current meeting schedule is crafted with temporary amendments to Open Meeting Law in mind. Department staff will diligently monitor evolving situations to determine if schedule adjustments are necessary, ensuring ongoing adherence to state laws and regulations.