

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 24-45

BOARD DATE: April 30, 2024

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND FISCAL YEAR 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOVED: That the Board of Higher Education approve the schedule of regular board meetings for Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026, as presented by the Commissioner.

VOTED: Motion approved and advanced to the full BHE by the Executive Committee on 4/22/2024; and adopted by the BHE on 4/30/2024.

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

Contact: Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Assistant Commissioner
Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel

FY2025 and FY2026 Regular 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 I, Section 3.

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 years 2025 and 2026 (academic years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026), the following BHE regular¹ board meeting schedule is proposed:

FY2025

- Tuesday, October 22, 2024
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Tuesday, May 20, 2025

The Board of Higher Education will hold its Annual Meeting on June 17, 2025.

FY2026

- Tuesday, September 9, 2025
- Tuesday, October 28, 2025
- Tuesday, December 9, 2025
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026
- Tuesday, April 7, 2026
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026

The Board of Higher Education will hold its Annual Meeting on 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 out of the six regularly scheduled meetings each academic/ fiscal year will be convened in person. The determination of the location for these in-person gatherings will be made by the Board Chair, in consultation with the Commissioner. BHE By-Laws, Article II, Section 1.

Executive Committee meetings, Advisory Council sessions, Task Force meetings, and any other formal convenings of the board or a sub-body of the Board will predominantly be conducted virtually, consistent with Open Meeting Law requirements, unless specified otherwise. This framework ensures transparency, accessibility, and adaptability in the operations of the Board of Higher Education, fostering robust engagement and decision-making processes.

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.