



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeff Wulfson  
Acting Commissioner

January 19, 2018

Dear Southbridge Public Schools students, families, educators, staff, partners, community members, and officials:

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Jeffrey Villar, executive director of the Connecticut Council for Education Reform and a former superintendent in Connecticut, to be the receiver for the Southbridge Public Schools.

Dr. Villar has been an educator since he graduated from college and has worked in districts in Connecticut for the length of his career. He started as a bilingual high school history teacher and later served as a principal and superintendent who worked with teachers and district staff to align curriculum, improve district budget transparency and increase student achievement.

As executive director of the Connecticut Council for Education Reform, he has led efforts to provide district leaders with technical support and professional development to narrow achievement gaps in Connecticut. Prior to his tenure at the council, Dr. Villar was superintendent of schools in Windsor and Rocky Hill, Conn. While superintendent, he led his districts' instructional improvement strategy by implementing new curriculum models aligned with district assessments, improved district budget transparency and worked extensively to plan school building projects.

Prior to appointing Dr. Villar, we worked with a facilitator to gather responses from the community about what qualities you hoped to see in the next Southbridge superintendent/receiver. That feedback helped inform my selection of Dr. Villar.

Dr. Villar holds a bachelor of arts degree in history from Eastern Connecticut State University, a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate in education in curriculum and instruction, also from the University of Connecticut.

Russell Johnston will remain interim receiver until Dr. Villar's appointment takes effect on February 12, 2018. I hope you will join me in welcoming Dr. Villar to the Southbridge community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Wulfson".

Jeff Wulfson  
Acting Commissioner