



William J. Milot, President  
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December 19, 2016

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education  
75 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148-4906

Dear Commissioner Chester,

Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE) is the state's leading organization for educators with a passion for technology in Education. Starting as a grassroots organization 35 years ago with 15 teachers meeting in a school library, the organization has grown to 950 plus active members and 140 plus corporate members. MassCUE is dedicated to providing an innovative, strategic vision of the future of educational technology. MassCUE's premiere annual technology conference is held every fall at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, MA and provides high quality professional learning opportunities. MassCUE is the New England affiliate of International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

MassCUE supports the approximately 2,000 educators who currently possess the Instructional Technology Specialist (ITS-All Levels) license and does not agree with the elimination of this license. Educators with this license function in their school district as a technology support role (coach) for K-12 teachers or staff or provide direct instruction for students. In some districts, the ITS does both technology support for educators and direct student instruction.

MassCUE also endorses the recently approved Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DL&CS) Standards Grade K-12. The Instructional Technology Specialist license was established in 1997, and MassCUE agrees that the Subject Matter Knowledge (SMK) needs to be updated to reflect the new DL&CS standards. As stated previously, MassCUE does not support the elimination of the ITS license. The implications of eliminating and rationale for the ITS license are noted below:

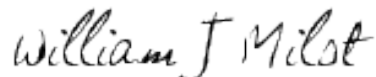
- The decision to sunset this license does not take into consideration the tremendous impact that this role plays in district initiatives which utilize technology (1:1 Learning, Personalizing Instruction, #GoOpen, Future Ready) and utilize web based resources which align with many of the ConnectEd Initiatives.
- The need for a coach or specialist is crucial if technology is ubiquitous to support instructional practice and student learning. Teachers have so many demands that without

coaching and support they do not have the bandwidth to keep up with best practices in technology.

- The use of resources for adaptive/assistive devices that provide access for all students. Understanding of Universal design principles. AT and UD are key to supporting some of our most vulnerable students and the teachers that support them, this occurs in no other license.
- The need for someone to analyze core curriculum to identify instructional practices and the most appropriate technology tools to use for instruction.
- ITS professionals play a key role in developing curriculum, working side by side with content experts, to ensure that content, technology, and pedagogy are all taking into account to leverage the best possible instruction practices.
- ITS roles in school districts may include coaching; co-teaching and teaching students with the primary focus of increasing digital literacy, proficiency and the integration of technology into curricula.
- ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) and major educator preparation program accreditation agencies recognizes the ITS as a separate field of educator preparation.

It is with the utmost respect that MassCUE requests the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to continue to sustain the ITS License (All Levels) that supports the new Digital Learning and Computer Science framework. Secondly, a specialization for Computer Science should be created through the ITS license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Milot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William J. Milot  
President  
Massachusetts Computer Using Educators