

Education & Workforce Development Task Force

CHAIR: Colleen Richards Powell, *Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer*, American Tower

STATEMENT

Meeting the current and future talent needs of employers across the state will require innovative approaches to education and workforce training. Strengthening the state's childcare and educational systems are key to unlocking the potential of citizens across the state and cornerstone to building a highly talented workforce of the future. Building a workforce development system that is aligned to meet both the short- and long-term needs of employers will enable the state to remain highly competitive in the global economy.

PRINCIPLES

The following have emerged as the three guiding principles for this legislative session, all informed by MBR's overarching themes of opportunity, equity & competitiveness.

- **OPPORTUNITY:** Increasing access to career and technical education expands opportunity for youth and young adults by bridging the gap for school-to-career connecting activities, leveraging resources from regional vocational and technical schools, and advancing STEM pathways especially for underrepresented and underserved populations
- **EQUITY:** The COVID-19 pandemic further uncovered the disparities and inequities within the state's childcare and public education systems, especially in urban and underserved areas across the Commonwealth. It is an economic imperative to understand the root causes of such disparities so the business community can address and promote equity in both
- **COMPETITIVENESS:** Access to diverse talent and talent pipelines is a driver for Massachusetts' competitiveness. Investing in sector-based job training, workforce training programs, technical education, and post-secondary education will further position employers to access untapped, diverse talent and align pipeline development with the future of work

POLICY PRIORITIES

The following policy priorities will be a central component of the Roundtable's advocacy this legislative session. This section will continue to be updated as additional priority areas arise.

- Support talent pipelines and opportunity pathways that align with the changing needs of employers across the Commonwealth

- Engage in the development of legislation to establish universal, high quality early childhood education in the Commonwealth
- Prioritize opportunity pathways by focusing on closing the digital skills gap and expanding access to school to career connecting activities, technical education and training, post-secondary education

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