** Massachusetts Tiered System of Support (MTSS):** 

 **Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Academy**

MTSS focuses on systems structures and supports across the district, school and classroom to meet the academic and non-academic needs of all students. The MTSS: UDL academy provides training and technical assistance to ensure that all students have access to a robust learning environment. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with CAST, is pleased to offer an intensive professional development opportunity designed to support school and district teams with integrating the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) with current practices, scaling effective UDL practices, and optimizing UDL implementation. UDL is a framework for guiding the design of curriculum, programs, and materials and helps educators by suggesting flexible goals, methods, materials, and assessments that empower educators to address learner variability in today’s classrooms while maintaining high achievement standards for all students. The goal of the UDL Academy is to build capacity at the school and district levels to impact change in educator practice and support high achievement for all learners.

**MTSS: UDL Academy Description**

The MTSS: UDL Academy is a hybrid model of face-to-face and online learning opportunities supplemented by in-district, on-site coaching that supports the implementation of newly developed skills in classrooms. UDL is part of the foundation of MTSS and supports the development of robust and responsive core educational environments designed to meet the variability of the learners in the classroom

The training and technical assistance includes the development of:

* background knowledge in UDL and its application to practice,
* lesson/unit development aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks,
* coaching and facilitation structures,
* effective strategies for team collaboration and decision making, and
* implementation strategies.

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| **Year 1****Fall 2016 - Spring 2017**Professional Learning Activities | **Year 2****Fall 2017 – Spring 2018**Professional Learning Activities |
| **Applying UDL to Classroom Practice** 6 days of face-to- face training (plus one additional days for team facilitators) | **Scaling and Sustaining UDL Practices**6 days of face-to- face training (plus one additional days for team facilitators) |
| 2 days: on-site and remote technical assistance per district | 2 days: on-site and remote technical assistance per district |
| Networking Meeting | Networking Meeting |

**Team Composition:**

Each team should consist of six to eight people to support either district-wide or school-wide implementation of UDL and include:

* At least one administrator with decision making authority (building and district level)
* At least two instructional leaders, one who will take on the responsibilities of UDL team facilitator (may include educators or content coaches)
* At least two general or special education teachers and /or coaches who will work in partnerships to create lessons that are guided by UDL principles and consistent with the MTSS framework. Every team must have at least one representative from Special Education.

Team members are expected to attend all trainings and to participate in the online, on –site technical assistance activities.

**Cost:**

This multi-year training and technical assistance is being offered at no cost to schools and districts. Funds for this work are provided through a State Personnel Development Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. Schools and districts will be responsible for the cost of stipends, travel, substitutes, etc.

For more information about the MTSS: UDL Academy, please contact Michael Seymour (MSeymour@doe.mass.edu)