# Commonwealth of Massachusetts
# Division of Occupational Licensure
# Office of Private Occupational School Education

One Federal Street, Suite 600
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2012

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HANDOUT
## Massage Therapy

Organizations applying for a private occupational school license, or schools currently licensed as private occupational schools under M.G.L. c. 112, s. 263, must maintain compliance with Massachusetts laws. This handout is provided as a reference to highlight requirements specific to massage therapy programs. It is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of all applicable legal or regulatory obligations. Schools are responsible for reviewing and complying with all applicable statutes, regulations, licensing requirements, and professional standards. Questions may be directed to the Office of Private Occupational School Education at occupational.schools@mass.gov.

**Massage Therapy Curriculum.**

- The curriculum must comply with all requirements necessary to apply for a professional massage therapist license in Massachusetts, as required by the Board of Registration of Massage Therapy | Mass.gov (Board).
- Each applicant will submit its proposed curriculum to the Office of Private Occupational School Education (OS) as part of its preliminary application for licensure. OS will submit the curriculum to the Board for review to ensure it meets state requirements.

**Massage Clinic Requirements.** Massage therapy training programs that operate in-house massage clinics must provide an environment that ensures client privacy during clinical practice. The clinic must either:

1. Have private treatment rooms where massages are provided to members of the public; or
2. Use movable privacy screens that fully enclose the massage treatment area. When privacy screens are used, only the client, the student practitioner, and the supervising instructor may be present within the screened area while the massage is being performed. Clients may change clothing in a separate washroom or changing area located outside the treatment space and may wear a sheet, towel, robe, or similar covering when moving between the changing area and the massage treatment area.

**Client, Student, and Staff Records.** All client, student, and staff records must be maintained securely and protected from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, alteration, or loss. Records may be stored in physical or electronic form, provided appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure confidentiality and security.

**Each MT school must prominently include the following disclosure in its promotional materials and as an addendum to its enrollment contract,** in English, Chinese, Italian, Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese:

"Starting January 1, 2027, anyone applying for a massage license in Massachusetts must have passed an exam approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Massage Therapy. Currently, the only accepted exam is the MBLEx, which is available only in English and Spanish and does not offer language accommodations."

**English:**
*Starting January 1, 2027, anyone applying for a massage license in Massachusetts must have passed an exam approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Massage Therapy. Currently, the only accepted exam is the MBLEx, which is available only in English and Spanish and does not offer language accommodations.*

*Simplified Chinese:*
*自 2027 年 1 月 1 日起，任何在麻萨诸塞州申请按摩执照者，必须通过麻萨诸塞州按摩治疗注册委员会批准的考试。目前唯一认可的考试是 MBLEx，该考试仅提供英语和西班牙语版本，且不提供语言便利措施。*

*Traditional Chinese:*
*自 2027 年 1 月 1 日起，任何申請麻薩諸塞州按摩執照者，必須通過經麻薩諸塞州按摩治療註冊委員會核准之考試。目前唯一認可的考試為 MBLEx，該考試僅提供英語與西班牙語版本，且不提供語言便利措施。*

*Italian:*
*A partire dal 1° gennaio 2027, chiunque richieda una licenza per massaggiatore nel Massachusetts dovrà aver superato un esame approvato dal Massachusetts Board of Registration of Massage Therapy (Consiglio di registrazione della massoterapia del Massachusetts). Attualmente, l'unico esame accettato è l'MBLEx, disponibile solo in inglese e spagnolo e che non offre agevolazioni linguistiche.*

*Greek:*
*Από την 1η Ιανουαρίου 2027, όποιος υποβάλλει αίτηση για άδεια μασάζ στη Μασαχουσέτη πρέπει να έχει περάσει εξετάσεις που έχουν εγκριθεί από το Συμβούλιο Εγγραφής Μασάζ Θεραπείας της Μασαχουσέτης. Επί του παρόντος, η μόνη αποδεκτή εξέταση είναι η MBLEx, η οποία είναι διαθέσιμη μόνο στα αγγλικά και τα ισπανικά και δεν προσφέρει γλωσσικές διευκολύνσεις.*

*Spanish:*
*A partir del 1 de enero de 2027, toda persona que solicite una licencia de masajista en Massachusetts deberá haber aprobado un examen aprobado por la Junta de Registro de Masoterapia de Massachusetts.*
*Actualmente, el único examen aceptado es el MBLEx, que solo está disponible en inglés y español y no ofrece adaptaciones de idioma.*

*Vietnamese:*
*Từ ngày 1 tháng 1 năm 2027, bất kỳ ai nộp đơn xin giấy phép hành nghề massage tại Massachusetts đều phải đỗ kỳ thi được Hội đồng Đăng ký Trị liệu Massage Massachusetts phê duyệt. Hiện tại, kỳ thi duy nhất được chấp nhận là MBLEx, chỉ sử dụng tiếng Anh và tiếng Tây Ban Nha và không cung cấp các điều chỉnh ngôn ngữ.*

*Haitian Creole:*

*Apati dat 1ye Janvye 2027, kèlkeswa moun k ap aplike pou yon lisans masaj nan Massachusetts dwe fin pase yon egzamen ki apwouve pa Komisyon Enskripsyon Terapi Masaj Massachusetts la. Kounye a, sèl egzamen yo aksepte se MBLEx, ki disponib sèlman an Anglè ak Espanyòl epi ki pa ofri okenn akomodasyon lengwistik.*

*<u>Portuguese:</u>*
*A partir de 1º de janeiro de 2027, qualquer pessoa que se inscreva para obter uma licença de massagem em Massachusetts deverá ter sido aprovada em um exame do Conselho de Registro de Massoterapia de Massachusetts. Atualmente, o único exame aceito é o MBLEx, que está disponível apenas em inglês e espanhol e não oferece adaptações para outros idiomas.*