



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION



*An MSAA Professional Development Workshop for: K-12 Principals, School Leaders, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and any school community members interested in learning productive strategies for direct and open communication*

## Transforming Difficult Conversations into Opportunities for Learning



Featuring **TEACHERS21** Presenter:  
**David Castelline**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**  
at the MSAA Office, Franklin

**Sign-In:** 8:00am-8:30am  
**Workshop:** 8:30am-3:00pm

**PD Hours: 6**  
**Content Area:** *Leadership and Administration*

**Fees:** Member \$215 / Non-Member \$285

**MSAA Contact:** [pd@msaa.net](mailto:pd@msaa.net)

As educators, we often face difficult conversations, not only with our students, but with parents and colleagues as well. Studies have shown that the ability to have positive and productive conversations is an important component of school connectedness, which has a direct impact on the social-emotional well-being of every member of the school community, including student attendance and academic achievement. In this workshop we will explore a framework that can lead to improved skill at transforming difficult conversations into learning conversations.

### Participants will:

- Gain greater awareness of the benefits of engaging in difficult conversations.
- Increase their ability to listen carefully and respond with curiosity.
- Understand the components of a difficult conversation and what makes it difficult for each individually.
- Deepen their understanding of how emotions impact our conversations and interactions.
- Highlight the importance of acknowledgement and perspective with charged issues.
- Practice strategies to turn difficult conversations into positive learning experiences.
- Gain skills in delivering challenging information with clarity and sensitivity.

**David Castelline** became the principal of the Underwood School in Newton in 1992, where he happily served for 19 years before retiring in 2011. For the past 10 years David worked supervising prospective school leaders with the Educator Leadership Institute (ELI), sponsored by EDCO. He currently is the Director of the ELI program. In addition to his work at ELI, David is a consultant for Teachers21, providing coaching for principals, and leading professional development opportunities in all areas of leadership, supervision and evaluation.

[Register online at www.msaa.net](http://www.msaa.net)

**LEADERSHIP MATTERS**



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