

Over-regulated and under-funded? Bring the message to your legislators at **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the special election that will be held statewide on April 30, and the use of the Great Hall at the State House as a polling site on that day, MASC has cancelled its scheduled April 30 DAY ON THE HILL and will instead host a **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY** at the State House on **Tuesday, May 21**.

REGULATIONS. MANDATES. MORE Regulations. Testing Requirements for Students and Educators. New Demands for Services. Increased Accountability. Race to the Top dollars go away and Sequestration cuts become a reality. Does this sound familiar, and if so, are you coping (or just barely)?

The good news is that despite the regulatory and testing overload and an economy that is only tiptoeing toward recovery, Massachusetts students continue to outperform not only the rest of the nation but nearly all other countries as well on the most recent NEAP and TIMSS (international science and math assessment) tests. Many of the state's public schools continue to make significant

measurable progress toward closing the achievement gap, and districts are well on their way to implementing the new educator evaluation requirements. In late January, Governor Patrick presented his FY14 budget that would increase Chapter 70 by \$226 million and provide more than \$100 million in new funding for early education and care. (For more on the Governor's budget see the January, 2013 Legislative Bulletin on the MASC web: www.masc.org and the MASC testimony from earlier this month reprinted below.)

ARE YOU FEELING

over-regulated?
under-funded?
over-tested?
under fire?
all of the above?

Rx: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY
Tuesday, May 21 • The State House, Boston

masc MA Association of School Committees

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MASC Testimony to Ways & Means Committee

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees thanks the Joint Committees on Ways and Means for the opportunity to provide testimony on the governor's FY 2014 budget recommendations as they relate to public education.

MASC commends the governor for his insight and courage in making a proposal that would provide the additional revenue necessary to achieve several

important goals for children, public schools and for the Commonwealth in general.

Specifically, we applaud the proposals that would:

- Provide significant additional support for expansion of early education services to the state's most vulnerable children.
- Complete the implementation of the 2007 reforms to the Chapter 70 program that includes a higher minimum state financial aid threshold for eligible districts.

• Provide sufficient additional funding to Chapter 70 to ensure that every district will receive an additional per-pupil reimbursement.

We also applaud the governor for taking steps to protect the most vulnerable among our students and those at greatest social and economic risk by:

- Providing additional funding to the Gateway Cities Program.
- Supporting extended learning time grants.

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(Left to right): **Anne McKenzie**, Executive Director, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative; **Marc Terry, Esq.**, Mirick O'Connell; Kevin Courtney, Consultant to MASC's District Governance Support Project; spoke on the new educator evaluation regulations at the Franklin County School Committee Caucus on Saturday, March 16 in Greenfield. Terry, a past president of the MA Council of School Attorneys, noted the MTA played a part in developing the model contract language with the Department of Education. He advised school committees on elements of the suggested contract language, including • The required length of time for a teacher's work to improve • Training for evaluators • Unannounced observations • Grievance process and standards. Copies of his handouts are available by contacting marciaday@comcast.net.



ing series of mandates from the state and federal bureaucracies. They divert us from our responsibilities to educate children in order to comply with reams of regulations, complete and file dozens of reports, obey compliance orders, follow directives, adhere to instructions in “advisories,” and fulfill other mandates that consume hours of our time and which are not necessarily authorized by the legislature.

We have filed legislation to address this issue and will speak more specifically to it in the near future. We do, at this time, remind you that there would be fewer regulatory-based costs of government if there were fewer regulations to divert us from our work educating children.

Implementation of the newly mandated Common Core Curriculum, introduction the newly mandated educator evaluation system, and compliance with the newly mandated federal requirement to train teachers who work with English Language Learners consume almost 750 pages of regulation, rubrics, matrices, advisories, instructions, curriculum and directives. Education reform and our best efforts to educate children should not be obstructed with voluminous and prescriptive regulations that contribute nothing to improving outcomes for our students.

Only you, as legislators, can rescue school leaders from the regulatory burden.

Testimony to Ways & Means, contined from page 1

Finally, we commend the governor and the legislature for fulfilling its commitment to the MASS Health program, Medicaid, and health insurance for families with and without children. We recognize that our state leaders, including members of the legislature, have provided a solid base of support for families at risk which complements the work of educators as we work to create a healthy and learned society. That you have avoided short cuts, prioritized quality and high standards, and rejected ethical compromises in supporting our health and social services is a tribute to the values that have distinguished our state year after year.

We do call to your attention; however, several additional financial priorities of concern to us. They include:

- Establishment of an adequacy study to determine an appropriate level for the foundation budgets of school districts and a sufficient level of Chapter 70 funding.
- Restoration of regional transportation funding.
- Full funding in FY 2014 of the special education circuit breaker that was offset by mid-year reductions of \$11.4 million in FY 2013.
- Full funding of charter school amelioration funding to offset the expropriation of Chapter 70 reimbursement for students who leave the public school district for a privately governed, publicly funded charter school.

We recognize that the cost of fulfilling all recommendations

contained in the budget message may be outside the parameters available to us at this time. We are eager to work with the legislature to identify an appropriate set of revenue proposals to provide the services necessary to support children and families in the year ahead.

Finally, we call upon the Ways and Means Committees to address certain public policies that may affect budgets in a favorable way, without cost or with significant cost reductions - most importantly those that relate to the cost of over regulation.

Massachusetts educators work under a crushing regulatory burden and an increas-

Joint Committee on Education Scheduled Hearings

Date	Time	Room	Hearing Topic
April 9	10:00 –1:00	A1	ELLs/Bilingual Ed; Assessments
May 7	10:00 –1:00	A1	Accountability; Charter Schools; Expanded Learning Time
May 14	10:00 –1:00	A1	Curriculum I
May 30	10:00 –1:00	A1	School Climate; School Safety
June 6	10:00 –1:00	A1	Special Education; Collaboratives
June 13	10:00 –1:00	A1	SPED Finance
June 20	10:00 –1:00	A1	Early Ed & Care; College & Career Readiness; Extra-Curricular
June 27	10:00 –1:00	A1	Accountability/Compliance; Technology
September 12	10:00 –1:00	A1	Health
September 19	10:00 –1:00	A1	Personnel; Libraries
October 3	10:00 –1:00	A1	School Finance
October 17	10:00 –1:00	A1	At-Risk Students; School Discipline
October 24	10:00 –1:00	A1	Transportation; Voc-Tech; Regional Schools; SBA
October 31	10:00 –1:00	A1	Curriculum II

Bring the Message to your Legislators: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY

MA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES 2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Adequate and Equitable Distribution of Chapter 70 School Aid**
- **Local and Regional Transportation**
- **Charter School Finance Reform**
- **Full Funding of the Education Circuit Breaker**
- **Funding to Support Education for Mobile Students**
- **Strengthen the Children's Services Safety Net**
- **Relief from Excessive Regulation**
- **Funding for Chapter 70 Adequacy Study**

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Nevertheless many accounts still remain under- or barely level-funded: proposed increases to the out-of-district special education account will not cover the spiraling cost of special education placements for many districts; regional transportation, though increased, remains at less than 60% of the full funding required by statute; and charter schools—which are accountable to no one—continue to siphon badly needed dollars away from many of the state's most vulnerable districts. In addition, districts are being challenged by a record number of new mandates (health, nutrition, concussion prevention, background checks and the new educator evaluation requirements that have significant ramifications for collective bargaining) that will require costly new processes to be implemented. Additional challenges include the ongoing struggle to educate and assist a growing transient population as well as the upcoming Common Core standards curriculum and PARCC assessments, and the assaults on local control and democratically elected school leadership.

For budget and regulation-weary school leaders, the solution begins with you and your colleagues. Never before has it been as imperative to remind legislators of the critical need to relax the mandates on educators and provide sustainable resources to districts. If schools are to meet the challenges of educating all children

to a 21st century standard in an era of increasingly fierce global competition, schools will need to support and grow student learning opportunities.

These and other issues (see "Legislative Priorities" above) will be the basis for MASC's revamped **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY, May 21**. Members are encouraged to bring the message to Beacon Hill that real achievement can only be accomplished with real dollars. In particular, Members are urged to make appointments with their legislators for May 21 and follow through with discussions on the future of education funding in an era of high expectations; the need to support and strengthen services for mobile and other challenged students through improved interagency collaboration; a renewed call for legislative commitment to comprehensive school funding; and relief from excessive regulation.

The importance of school committee members advocating directly with their legislators cannot be overstated, according to MASC President Mary Jo Rossetti. Legislators are exposed to dozens of different areas of public policy at any given time, all of which

require a level of highly specialized knowledge.

"Legislators need your help if they are to clearly understand the challenges school leaders face as well as your budgetary and policy priorities. Our 2200 school committee members represent the state's largest body of elected officials. Our collective influence potential to offer solutions and advance action for student achievement is enormous. There has never been a better—or more critical—time to advocate for our issues and impress upon legislators the urgency of implementing the fiscal and regulatory reforms that will move districts forward and ensure long-term sustainability. It is up to us to demonstrate leadership through advocacy and the May 21 date is especially critical as the Senate begins debating the budget on or around that time."

Registration information is being mailed to all members and is posted online. The format for the day is informal and there is **no charge to attend**. The MASC Board of Directors and staff will welcome attendees in Nurses Hall with coffee and supplemental materials, including copies of position papers on key issues for members to share with their legislators. We do ask that you register in order that sufficient materials are available for you to distribute and bring back to your district.

Please contact the MASC office if you have questions (800)392-6023 and check the MASC website (www.masc.org) for registration information and updates. We look forward to seeing you at the State House on Tuesday, May 21.

Boston Red Sox seek your nominees for Most Valuable Educator

The Boston Red Sox most valuable educator program is back for another season of saluting outstanding teachers and education support professionals. This year, the field of potential honorees has been widened to include all those who work or volunteer in MA public schools, including school committee members and administrators.

To nominate someone, send an essay of

400 words or less to: Most Valuable Educator, c/o Red Sox Community Relations, 4 Yawkey Way, Boston MA 02215. Include your contact information and contact information for the person you are nominating. Information and nomination forms at www.readingmatters.org. MVE nominations must be postmarked by July 31.

Choices.

Choices.

The MASC Academy for School Leadership will offer two separate programs on Saturday, April 6 for both new and veteran school committee members.

The **Charting the Course** program, which will be held from 8am-4pm, will introduce newly elected members to the eight key components of school leadership that members address in their role as elected officials. The session is structured to meet the requirements of the new school committee member training legislation as well as recent updates to laws around school district governance with particular emphasis on recent changes to the open meeting, conflict of interest and ethics laws.

A concurrent program on **Parliamentary Procedures and The Role of the Chair** will include the basics of leading the school committee and an orientation to the important elements of parliamentary procedure and its role in enabling effective, orderly school committee meetings. Current chairs and vice chairs (and aspiring chairs) as well as members who are

<p>April 27 BLUE HILLS VOC. TECH., CANTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charting the Course (8am-4pm)• Collective Bargaining for Student Achievement/Superintendent Evaluation and Assessment (8am-1pm)	<p>May 18 TAHANTO JR./SR. HIGH BOYLSTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charting the Course (8am-4pm)• Collective Bargaining for Student Achievement/Superintendent Evaluation and Assessment (8am-1pm)
<p>May 4 MASHPEE HIGH SCHOOL MASHPEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charting the Course (8am-4pm)• Parliamentary Procedure/ Role of the Chair (8am-1pm)	<p>July 13 MASC SUMMER ACADEMY Location and program TBA 9am-1pm</p>
	<p>September 21 Lee Elementary School, Lee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charting the Course (8am-4pm)

interested in parliamentary procedure are encouraged to attend. This session will run from 8am-1pm (includes lunch) after which attendees may, at no additional cost, join their colleagues for the afternoon portion of the Charting the Course program which will focus on school finance and the new superintendent/educator

evaluation requirements.

Both programs will be held at the Greater Lowell Voc. Tech. School in Tyngsborough. For more information or to register, call (800)392-6023 or register online at www.masc.org.

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

MASC PAST PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP Information and Application for 2013 Award

MASC has established a scholarship funded by and honoring the Association's Past President's to recognize an outstanding student who demonstrates outstanding scholarship, service to the school district, community or public at large, or distinguished achievement.

Eligible candidates must be public high school seniors in a municipal or regional school district that is a member of MASC and a relative of a current or former school committee member.

The scholarship winner will be selected by a panel of MASC Past Presidents. Criteria have been established broadly to recognize and encourage a wide range of applicant interest.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Past Presidents may consider any of the following criteria in considering applicants or nominees:

- Outstanding Scholarship
- Service to the School District, Community or the Public at Large
- Distinguished Achievement in any Field.
- Relationship to the current or former MASC member.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Eligible students may apply directly by submitting the brief application and statement. School Committee members and others may submit the application and statement on behalf of any eligible student. Applicants may submit supporting data but are asked to limit all submissions to no more than five pages.

Applications must be submitted in hard copy format via US Mail and must be received not later than 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2013. Applications must be sent to:

Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, One
McKinley Square, Suite 200, Boston, MA 02109

Applications may be downloaded from the MASC Web Site at www.masc.org.

**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES
PAST PRESIDENTS' SCHOLARSHIP - Application for 2013 Award**

NOMINEE:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL: _____

DISTRICT: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRENT OR FORMER MASC MEMBER:

NOMINATOR (IF OTHER THAN NOMINATEE)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE: _____

SCHOOL/DISTRICT: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRENT OR FORMER MASC MEMBER:

Please attach a statement that explains how the candidate demonstrates scholarship, leadership, service to the school, community or public and/or outstanding achievement.

Submit this sheet and attachment(s) to:

Executive Director, MASC
One McKinley Square, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02109

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2013.