

February Board of Education Meeting: Update

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education held its regular meeting on February 25 at DESE's office in Everett.

Following are highlights from that meeting.

CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION REQUESTS

The Board considered proposals from five charter schools that were seeking approval to expand their seating capacity. These included: KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School (Lynn); Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School (Marlborough); Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (an in-district Horace Mann Charter Public School in Boston); South Shore Charter Public School (Norwell); Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (Hadley). The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (South Hadley) asked to reduce the number of districts from which it currently draws students.

KIPP Academy lost its second attempt to expand its campus in Lynn following a heated debate, and strong opposition from local legislative, education, and municipal officials. The vote was 4 in favor, 6 opposed. The expansion would have added 450 seats, raising enrollment to more than 2,000 students.

The Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School in Marlborough seeking an additional 34 seats,

failed on a deadlocked vote of 5-5.

The remaining three schools seeking to expand capacity were granted approval: the Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (352 seats, 9-1 vote); Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter (100 seats, 6-4 vote); and South Shore Charter (225 seats, 6-4 vote).

The Board also voted 8-2 to approve Pioneer Valley Arts request to shrink the area from which they draw. Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler opposed all six requests.

Opponents of the expansions, including the MASS, AFT, and MTA, noted significant fiscal concerns as districts grapple with inflation, rising costs, and uncertainty about future federal funding. President Trump has proposed investing \$1.5 billion to expand charter schools.

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

The Board voted to send out for public comment proposed regulation changes regarding competency determination. This follows the state-wide vote last November that re-

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MASC welcomes new field director

Sean Costello, a resident of Marshfield, graduate of Marshfield Public Schools, and a member of the Marshfield School Committee since 2015, has joined the MASC staff as a Field Director. He will assist districts on the Cape, the South Shore and the Boston Metropolitan area. Sean replaces long-time Field Director Jim Hardy, who retired last fall.

Sean brings over a decade of experience in both state and local government. For over 10 years he worked at the Massachusetts State House for Representative Bruce Ayers, first as Legislative Director and later as Staff Director. In this role, he helped increase healthcare access for people with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and dementia; expand water transportation services in Quincy and Boston Harbor; secure funding for veterans' substance use addiction treatment and counseling services; and much more.

Elected to the Marshfield School Committee in 2015, he was re-elected to his 4th term in 2024. He served as Chair from 2016-2021, and again from 2022-present. Under his leadership, the district implemented universal, tuition-free full day kindergarten.



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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES PORTAL FOR REPORTING DEI IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Trump administration has launched a controversial online portal allowing citizens to report diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices in public schools, escalating an aggressive campaign to purge those initiatives from American education. Unveiled last month, the Department of Education's "End DEI" portal arrived just before the expiration of the administration's contentious two-week ultimatum for schools and universities to dismantle DEI programs or face funding cuts.

The portal explicitly asks for complaints about "discrimination based on race or sex" in K-12 public schools, requiring users to provide personal details, school information and allegations limited to 450 words, with options to upload evidence.

The administration intends to use these submissions to target schools for investigation, says the website.

Legal resistance to the administration's policy on schools is increasing. The AFT has sued the education department calling its 14 February memo unconstitutional. Filed jointly with the American Sociological Association, the lawsuit argues the directive violates first amendment and fifth amendment protections and is dangerously vague.

MCMAHON CONFIRMED AS EDUCATION SECRETARY

Linda McMahon won confirmation as U.S. education secretary on March 3, gaining Senate approval in a 51-45 vote along party lines.

She was nominated by President Trump to lead his long-promised downsizing of the U.S. Department of Education.

A former administrator of the Small Business Administration and former president and CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, McMahon said during her confirmation hearing that she was open to reforming the department but wanted to study

specific programs before making commitments for change.

Trump has repeatedly said he wants to close the Education Department – a move that needs congressional buy-in. When asked by Democratic lawmakers if she supported the agency closure, McMahon said Trump wants to end federal bureaucracy in education.

For example, McMahon said education-related civil rights investigations might be housed at the U.S. Department of Justice and that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services could take on oversight of services for students with disabilities. She did say funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Title I programming for low-income schools, and other programs established in statute would need to continue even if the Education Department were shuttered.

When asked if she would commit to not suspending or cutting federal funding approved by Congress for student financial aid, loan programs for historically Black colleges and universities, career and technical education, programs that serve students with disabilities, and other programs, McMahon wrote: "I will follow the law."

At the confirmation hearing, McMahon said her priorities as education secretary would include expanding school choice and skills-based learning, giving local schools and parents more decision-making power, and protecting students from discrimination and harassment.

MA

FEDERAL GRANT MONEY IN MA

Massachusetts state leaders have asked officials across state government to identify all of the federal grant money their departments are using and any steps they could take to "protect" the state should the Trump administration turn off various federal funding sources.

Governor Maura Healey's budget office and the state comptroller issued the Jan. 28 request in response to Trump administration memo

freezing spending on federal loans and grants.

The state-level missive asks budget directors and other financial officers to review what types of federal money their departments currently rely on, including the number of employees that are paid through federal programs.

Officials also asked that departments "identify potential departmental actions to residents and resources in the event federal payments are stopped, including the use of other funding sources currently available to them.

Trump officials subsequently rescinded their memo freezing the funds, and a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order.

However, officials in MA and elsewhere remain on edge, wary of what impact many of Trump's underlying executive orders could have on funding that has flowed to, or has been promised, to states.

As FY26 budget development gets underway, Healey says one of her biggest concerns is the potential impact of cuts on programs and services. The Governor's proposed budget assumes that the state will receive \$16 billion in federal funding, including \$14 billion in federal reimbursements for MassHealth, the state Medicaid program under which 2 million people, including children, low-income families, and others rely on for health insurance.

Medicaid, however, has emerged as a target of House Republicans, who have weighed cutting the reimbursement the federal government provides to states. The budget resolution passed last month by the Republican-controlled House could cut \$880 billion over the next decade from federal programs overseen by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which includes Medicaid.

"But it's not just health care," Healey said. "It's everything from housing and food assistance to assistance for seniors and veterans. The landscape is shifting every day. It's a problem we are going to all have to tackle together."

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Ludlow parents lose appeal over gender identity notification policy

Prepared by Patrick Francomano, Esq., MASC General Counsel

The recent February 18th First Circuit Court of Appeals' decision upholding the Massachusetts Federal District Court's dismissal of a parents' lawsuit, has raised concern among parental rights advocates but is being celebrated by those opposed to gender identity discrimination. In *Foote et al. v. Ludlow School Committee et al.*, 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 23-1069, the First Circuit Court of Appeals found that the Constitutional rights of the parents were

not violated when Ludlow's Baird Middle School followed its policy concerning gender identity and a student's preferred name and/or gender pronoun.

The case focused on Ludlow's policy of not notifying a student's parent or guardian, absent a student's specific consent, prior to using a student's preferred name and/or gender pronoun. The parents also objected to the District's conduct which included in part advising the student that they could use any bathroom they wished, permitting

the student to have a discussion with a counselor concerning issues around their gender identity, and requesting student use their preferred pronouns as part of a school assignment.

The parents maintained that the middle school staff acted improperly when they failed to advise them that their 11-year-old child, who was born female, had asked to be identified by a different name and pronouns during the school day. They further argued that Ludlow's nondisclosure policy and conduct "restricted their fundamental parental rights protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, including: (1) the right to direct the education and upbringing of their children (Count I; (2) the right to make medical and mental health decisions for their children (Count II); and (3) the right to familial privacy (Count III)." *Foote v. Ludlow School Committee* at Page 13.

The Court recognized that the school's policy, procedure and actions were consistent with district guidance provided by DESE's and were aligned with Massachusetts' antidiscrimination law, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

The Court initially addressed the parents' claim that characterized Ludlow's conduct as "mental health treatment," which effectively restricted their fundamental right to direct medical treatment for their child. The Court recognized that "precedent indicates that parents have the right to direct their children's medical treatment, whether that treatment is complex or more routine," but found that the parents' factual allegations were insufficient on their face to support a claim that Ludlow's conduct constituted medical treatment. *Foote* at Page 26-27.

The Court then went on to find that Ludlow did not violate the parents' rights under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. "The measures the Parents cite, however, all involve decisions by Ludlow's staff about how to reasonably meet diverse student needs within the school setting. The

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MA Legislative Committee Chairs Announced

Earlier this month, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ronald Mariano announced their appointments to lead joint legislative committees. Those of particular interest to MASC members are listed below. The full list of legislative committees and their members can be found at <https://malegislature.gov/Committees>.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Michael Rodrigues
Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

EDUCATION

Sen. Jason Lewis
Rep. Kenneth Gordon

ELDER AFFAIRS

Sen. Patricia Jehlen
Rep. Thomas Stanley

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sen. Robyn Kennedy
Rep. Jay Livingstone

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Sen. John Cronin
Rep. Steven Ultrino

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sen. Barry Finegold
Rep. Carole Fiola

HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Sen. Cindy Friedman
Rep. John Lawn, Jr.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Sen. Joanne Comerford
Rep. David Rogers

HOUSING

Sen. Julian Cyr
Rep. Richard Haggerty

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sen. Jake Oliveira
Rep. Paul McMurtry

MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE

Sen. John Velis
Rep. Mindy Domb

RACIAL EQUITY

Sen. Liz Miranda
Rep. Bud Williams

REVENUE

Sen. James Eldridge
Rep. Adrian Madaro

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Sen. Nick Collins
Rep. Antonio Cabral

Board of Education

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moved the requirement that students pass the MCAS exam to graduate. The voter law turned most decisions about whether a student graduates back to local districts, however, it maintained a statewide competency determination leaving it to the state to draft regulations about what the state deemed necessary to certify that a student was eligible to graduate without a standardized assessment.

The new language of the law includes terms such as “showing mastery” and “satisfactorily completing coursework” which the drafted regulations seek to define. The new regulations specify that students must satisfactorily complete course work in the equivalent of two years of high school English courses; either Algebra I and geometry or Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II; and either a year of biology, chemistry, or a year of a technology or engineering course.

Further, the Department has proposed adding US history as an “additional area,” beginning with the class of 2027. The proposed regulations also include options for students who cannot document that they have taken specific courses. The options could include passing the MCAS or completing a district equivalent that meets the same academic standards.

The proposed regulations would also require each district to have a competency determination policy, approved by the district school committee, which would include an appeal process. The policy would be required to be posted and translated, and submitted to the Department along with district local graduation requirements. These policies would be audited by the Department, and DESE would review local graduation policies as part of its district review process.

The regulations have been sent out

for public comment, which ends on April 4. A final vote for approval is anticipated on May 20. Note however, that Governor Maura Healey issued an executive order in January creating a Massachusetts K-12 Statewide Graduation Council to be led by the Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Council is charged with studying and making recommendations on a new statewide graduation requirement, including but not limited to the role of assessment, the potential for differentiated pathways to earning the competency determination, and the completion of additional experiences that demonstrate civic, college, and career readiness. An interim report from the Council is due prior to December 1 of this year, with the final recommendations expected in 2026. MASC President Jason Fraser is a member of the Council.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ADMISSION PROCESS

The debate over the career and technical school admission process has been continued to a special March 10 meeting. The proposed regulations, which will then be going out for public comment, would require include establishment of a lottery; the only two selection criteria that may be considered would be attendance (using only the prior two years and limited to 10 or more days of unexcused absences); and discipline, limited to major infractions only. Students cannot be ranked or tiered in the lottery.

TEACHER LICENSURE

Proposed amendments to the teacher licensure requirements are being sent out for public comment. The most significant issue is the proposal to continue the alternative licensure pilot.

MASC has posted a more detailed report of the Board meeting on our website: www.masc.org/public-policy/updates-february-2025-board-of-ed/

DESE Acting Commissioner appointed Superintendent in PA

Russell Johnston, who has been serving as Interim Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the past year, has been selected as the new superintendent of the Wallingford-Swarthmore Pennsylvania school district, beginning May 1.

Johnston was named acting chief of Massachusetts public schools in February 2024 after Jeffrey Riley announced he was stepping down from the post. Johnston, a longtime special education official, has been with the state government for a decade, including a stint as the interim receiver for Southbridge Public Schools, where he was temporarily charged with turning around the struggling district.

Previously, Johnston also served as superintendent of West Springfield Public Schools and worked as a special education teacher and director.

DESE is in the midst of a search for a new permanent commissioner.

New Field Director

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Aside from his professional life, Sean has volunteered for the last 14 years with the MA Youth & Government program, where he has mentored over 100 students from Marshfield to teach them about respectful civic engagement in a non-partisan atmosphere. He joined the board of the Y&G program in 2016.

Sean also serves as the co-chair of Marshfield’s Grad Nite Live committee, keeping kids safe on graduation night. Sean received his undergraduate degree in Political Science & International Studies with a minor in Grassroots Studies from Stonehill College in 2014. In 2023, he earned a Credential of Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Count to ten and breathe: MASC is here to help

Education has been in the national press quite a bit recently, with executive orders, letters, investigations, and court filings all making headlines. With so much happening so quickly, it can be difficult to keep up with it all, let alone ensure that you are able to make good decisions for the students you serve.

With that mind, we at MASC offer the following reminders:

You are not alone.

We at the Association are constantly keeping updated on what is happening through our state contacts, through the National School Boards Association, through our national workalike groups, through our legislators, and more. If or when headline-breaking-news requires a change to policy or information you need to make good decisions for your students, you can be certain that we will share that.

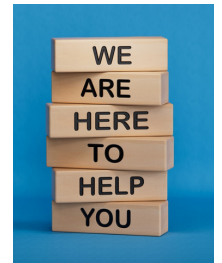
Federal funding is a shared responsibility.

Federal funding for education rarely comes directly from the federal government to your district; it flows through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as a result of agreements and documents that the Commonwealth has with the federal government. When you read headlines regarding federal funding, keep in mind that any changes to federal funding on education would come through the Department.

As a local school committee member, you continue to be a valuable resource and advocate for your district.

Those charged with budget, policy, and goal setting at the local level are best able to speak to what the impacts on proposed and actual changes in federal education policy, funding, and law are. We always encourage you to be in contact with your legislators to ensure they know what impacts federal changes will have on your students.

MASC will continue to keep you posted on developments as we learn of them and refer you to helpful resources. One which may be helpful—is the recording of our January Learning Lunch that focused on what the federal Department of Education does and its fiscal commitments to the states and school programs. The recording, including the slides and reference tools, is posted on the MASC website at www.masc.org/events-landing/workshop-recordings/



Ludlow Parents

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Supreme Court has never suggested that parents have the right to control a school's curricular or administrative decisions. Rather, the Court's parental rights cases more essentially provide 'that the state cannot prevent parents from choosing a specific educational program.' " *Footnote at Page 45.*

The Court went on to emphasize that Ludlow's policy of deferring to a student's decision concerning their gender identity and related issues was void of "the 'coercive' or 'restraining' conduct that other courts have found to restrict parental rights in this context." *Footnote at Page 33.* The Court pointed to Ludlow's sharing of resources concerning gender expression and inquiries to confirm that the student was receiving appropriate care and support from their parents and a counselor secured by their parents. These actions were not

coercive but instead supportive of the student's well being and consistent with the mission of public school education.

"As this opinion has endeavored to illuminate, we acknowledge the fundamental importance of the rights asserted by the Parents to be informed of, and to direct, significant aspects of their child's life -- including their socialization, education, and health. Be that as it may -- as this opinion has also made effort to explicate -- parental rights are not unlimited. Parents may not invoke the Due Process Clause to create a preferred educational experience for their child in public school. As per our understanding of Supreme Court precedent, our pluralistic society assigns those curricular and administrative decisions to the expertise of school officials, charged with the responsibility of educating children. And the Protocol of nondisclosure as to a student's at-school gender expression

without the student's consent does not restrict parental rights in a way courts have recognized as a violation of the guarantees of substantive due process." *Footnote at Page 45.*

The parents will likely seek review by the United States Supreme Court. There appear to be several cases throughout the country dealing with comparable issues which may find their way there as well. Of recent note is a 10th Circuit case argued earlier this year where Colorado parents were asking the Court to overturn a decision dismissing their action against a school district over a policy that discouraged staff from disclosing student struggles with gender dysmorphia to their parents. *Jonathan Lee et al. v Poudre School District R-1* .10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 24-1254.

MASC will continue to monitor these and other cases and encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or comments.



MASSDEP'S WATER-SMART PROGRAM: ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) Water-Smart Program is a voluntary lead testing program for schools and childcare facilities. To date, the Water-Smart Program has sampled nearly 1,000 schools and childcare programs- ensuring children have access to safe drinking water.

Why Water-Smart Matters

Lead exposure can cause serious health issues, particularly in children. Many schools and childcare facilities, especially older buildings built prior to 1988, are at risk for lead contamination due to outdated plumbing. Facilities built prior to 2014 could also be at risk due to lead presence

in fixtures. Water-Smart provides critical support to identify and address lead contamination risks, prioritizing testing in high-risk and disadvantaged communities.

What We Offer

- Free Lead Testing: covers the testing costs and provides schools and childcare facilities with accurate assessments.
- Targeted Outreach & Education: Informational materials, direct communication, and public awareness initiatives ensure facilities understand the importance of safe drinking water.
- Support for Remediation: If lead is detected, Water-Smart provides guidance on corrective actions, including fixture replacements and flushing protocols.
- Collaboration with Public Water Suppliers: The program helps prepare Public Water Suppliers for upcoming 2027 Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, expanding lead testing efforts.

Commitment to Safe Water

Water-Smart continues to grow, ensuring every child in Massachusetts has access to clean, lead-free drinking water. Through proactive testing, outreach, and remediation support, the program plays a vital role in safeguarding public health and fostering a safer learning environment.

To apply for our program please visit <https://tinyurl.com/WaterSmartProgram>. To learn more about our Water-Smart Program, please email MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, or visit our website at www.mass.gov/water-smart

THIS JUST IN: Update on Virtual Public Meetings

The temporary provision allowing public bodies to hold meetings remotely, originally enacted in 2020, is set to expire on March 31, 2025. However, there are active legislative efforts to extend or make this option permanent. Governor Healey's (D) recently filed bill, HD4360 - An Act Empowering Municipalities and Local Governments, includes language to permanently allow remote meetings, while Senator Bruce Tarr's (R) bill SD2734 - An Act to extend the open meeting law requirements for remote meeting participation proposes extending the current exemption for another year, through March 31, 2026.

MASC will continue to monitor these proposals and provide updates as they move through the legislative process. School committees should plan accordingly and stay informed about potential changes.

Spring 2025 Charting the Course Training Sessions

New School Committee Members are required by state law to complete a training course within one year of their election or appointment

MASC has upcoming "Charting the Course" training opportunities this spring for new and experienced school committee members. As a reminder, this training program meets the eight hour orientation mandate new school committee members must complete within one-year of their election or appointment (MGL Chapter 71 Sec 36A). There is no cost to attend a training.

Spring 2025 Training Dates:

- March 8: Charlton | Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School
- March 22: Stockbridge | Berkshire Hills Regional School District Office
- May 3: Westford | Nashoba Valley Technical High School
- May 17: New Bedford | Keith Middle School
- June 7: Greenfield | Greenfield High School
- June 21: Worcester | Doherty Memorial High School

Additional training dates will be offered in the fall and winter of 2025

EXPLORE MASC'S UPDATED ADVOCACY PAGE!

MASC has refreshed its Advocacy page to provide members with a clearer, more comprehensive look at our policy priorities and legislative efforts. The page now includes a Public Policy Development Timeline, outlining how our advocacy agenda is shaped by the Delegate Assembly, as well as our current policy priorities—the issues our members have identified as critical to supporting public education. You'll also find general information about our upcoming Day on the Hill, where members can advocate directly for these priorities at the State House.

Going forward, we'll continue to update the page with Legislative Bulletins, providing key updates on our advocacy efforts and policy developments. Stay informed and engaged by visiting the updated MASC Advocacy Page today at www.masc.org/advocacy.

SAVE THE DATE

MASC DAY ON THE HILL: May 6, 2025

U-MASS Club-Boston/ Great Hall-The State House

Save the date to join your MASC colleagues and legislators at the Association's annual DAY ON THE Hill advocacy program and lunch. Despite the uncertainties around federal funding and program implementation, school committees' focus in the upcoming weeks is on the real concerns embedded in the current budget debate for FY2026 and the 2025-2026 legislative session.

Join the state's legislative and education leaders at this critical time in advance of the finalized budget. Presentations will address MASC legislative priorities, including: Chapter 70 adjustments/inflation fixes; small and rural district issues; and special education funding.

The morning program will be held at the U-MASS Club in Boston, beginning at 9:00am. The ever-popular buffet lunch, prepared and catered by MA vocational school students, will be held in the Great Hall at the State House, two blocks away at 12:15.

Check your mailbox (email and snail-mail) for registration information. **Students are invited to attend at no charge, but they must be registered.**

Additional information, including a complete list and review of MASC's legislative priorities and policy development timeline, as well as specific Day on the Hill details, will be posted online at www.masc.org/advocacy and www.masc.org/Day-on-the-Hill



Artificial Intelligence: Policy Update

In light of the growing number of questions around the use of AI in schools and classrooms, members have been asking whether MASC has put together a model policy addressing AI. Following is guidance from the MASC policy staff.

The influence of Artificial Intelligence in education is a rapidly changing landscape. As such, it is difficult to develop a single policy that is able to address the many concerns of access, privacy, copyrights, and appropriate academic standards. Committees who wish to adopt a policy addressing AI should create a framework from which the administration can develop procedures in line with their acceptable use policies and the sections of their student handbooks that address instruction and academic integrity. Care should be taken to follow your district's current policies on student information protection laws as well.

Sample language could include:

The ___ School Committee acknowledges the growing influence of artificial intelligence in education. The ___ Public School District is committed to preparing our students for their futures. Therefore, it is essential for our students to develop fluency in digital technologies and critical thinking skills while also honoring their commitment to academic integrity. The Committee will direct the Administration to develop procedures in line with current district policy and state and federal laws regarding the protection of students' information. Such regulations will be reviewed regularly and revised as needed.

References:

IJND - ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES
IJNDB - USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN INSTRUCTION
IJNDC - ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

JRA - STUDENT RECORDS
Student Handbooks

MASC GOES TO WASHINGTON

MASC Executive Committee met 600 of their colleagues from across the country in Washington DC in late January as part of the National School Board Association's Advocacy and Equity Institute. The event focused on advancing inclusive policies and ensuring fair opportunities for all students. Attendees engaged in discussions on education policy, legislative developments, and strategies to address systemic barriers in K-12 public schools. Featured speakers included US Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). On February 4, the MASC delegation met with MA Congressional leaders in discussions of state priorities including: full funding of IDEA; Reauthorization of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Assistance Act; intergenerational priorities; funding of the Universal School Meals Act; and school safety concerns.



The National Hispanic Council presented their coveted Abrazo award on February 3 to Massachusetts school committee member Denise Hurst, MASC President-Elect who is a 16-year member of the Springfield School Committee. Shown here at the National School Boards Association Advocacy and Equity Institute in Washington, D.C. are Joe Guillen 2013 award recipient, Denise Hurst 2025 recipient, Mildred Lefebvre NSBA National Hispanic Council Chair, MASC's Immediate Past President and member of the Holyoke School Committee; and Marvyn Jaramillo NSBA Board of Directors.



Sen. Edward Markey being presented with MASC's Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. award for his constant and steadfast dedication and advocacy for the public school students of MA and the nation. Pictured left to right: seated: Mildred Lefebvre, Holyoke, MASC Past President; Stephanie Clougherty, Carver, MASC Secretary-Treasurer; Denise Hurst, Springfield, MASC President-Elect; Humera Fasihuddin, Hadley, MASC



MA Congressman James McGovern greeted MASC Past President Mildred Lefebvre, President Jason Fraser and Humera Fasihuddin, Chair of the Hadley School Committee and MASC Division V Chair.

Division V Chair; standing: Beverly Griffin Dunne, Peabody/Essex Tech., MASC Vice President; Senator Edward Markey; Jason Fraser, Plympton/Silver Lake Reg., MASC 2025 President.

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