

Massachusetts Association of School Committees Key Legislative Session Priorities

MASC is a member-driven association representing more than 2,200 school committee members. We support local leaders in their complex governance roles and advocate for the school committee perspective across all levels of government and education policy.



Adjust Chapter 70 Aid for Past and Future Inflation

H555 - An Act establishing a legislative commission to study and make recommendations regarding the chapter 70 funding formula
sponsored by Rep. Doherty

S400 - An Act to ensure adequate and equitable funding for public education
sponsored by Sen. Lewis

Status Update: At the start of the session, MASC identified H678/S388 - *An Act to Fix the Chapter 70 Inflation Adjustment* — as the legislative package that would revise the inflation formula to reflect true cost growth since 2019. If enacted, the bills would ensure that in future years when inflation exceeds the 4.5% annual cap, “catch-up” adjustments are made to Chapter 70 aid in subsequent years, and that inflation is incorporated into the budget.

Both bills were ultimately redrafted (into H555/S400) and now propose establishing legislative commissions to study our education funding formula. If passed, this would represent a major step in the right direction.

Action Ask: Each bill is in their respective Ways & Means Committee. MASC is calling for H555 and S400 to be reported out of committee favorably.



Improve the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts

H517/S2870 - An Act to provide a sustainable future for rural schools
sponsored by Rep. Blais and Sen. Comerford

Status update: Originally drafted to implement the recommendation made in the 2022 Special Commission on Rural Schools, this legislative package aims to strengthen & stabilize rural school districts by increasing rural school aid, addressing enrollment declines, & improving access. It supports targeted funding & resources to help rural schools overcome challenges related to geography, staffing, & transportation.

S2870 was reported out favorably by the Joint Committee on Education in a modified version that removed the Rural Aid provision among other things. With the unexpected resignation of Rep. Blais as the champion of the House bill, the rural schools bill is facing an uncertain outcome.

Action Ask: MASC seeks to have S2870 reported favorably out of Senate Ways & Means (SWM) and have H517 reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Education.

MASC Fast Facts

347 members attended Charting the Course new member training last year.

1,012 members joined us at our professional development webinars in 2025.

324 school committees maintain an MASC membership.

2,200+ individual school committee members have access to MASC services and expertise.

41 school districts utilized MASC to guide their superintendent search over the past 2 fiscal years.

1,048 school committee members superintendents, and education leaders attended the 2025 MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

MASC Public Policy Process

MASC’s advocacy priorities are determined by a vote of the membership at the annual Delegate Assembly. MASC staff, with guidance from the Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee, collaborate to develop a strategic advocacy plan and engage with legislators, state agencies, and education stakeholders to advance these priorities.

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Increasing and Establishing Reserve Funds for School Committees

H2303/S1469 - An Act relative to special education reserve funds

sponsored by Rep. LaNatra and Sen. Oliveira

Status update: MASC seeks to allow special education reserve funds to be up to 5% of annual net school spending - up from the current 2%. H2303 and S1469 would accomplish this goal. S1469 remains in the Committee on Rules. H2303 was ordered to a 3rd Reading and is awaiting a full vote of the House.

Action Ask: MASC is urging that H2303 be put on the orders of the day and voted on by the House. We are also asking the Committee on Rules report S1469 out favorably so it may move forward in the legislative process.

H2304/S1468 - An Act relative to a regional school assessment reserve fund

sponsored by Rep. LaNatra and Sen. Oliveira

Status update: The legislative package would authorize municipalities to establish a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund, capped at 10% of the municipality's annual Regional Assessment, for use only in years when the Regional Assessment increases by more than 3.5% over the prior year. It would also require that any distribution be used solely to reduce that increase and only to the extent the resulting increase remains at least 2.5%. S1468 remains in the Committee on Rules. H2304 was ordered to a 3rd Reading and is awaiting a full vote of the House.

Action Ask: MASC is urging that H2304 be put on the orders of the day and voted on by the House. We are also asking the Committee on Rules report S1468 out favorably so it may move forward in the legislative process.



Protecting Public Education in the State Budget

H2 - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2027

sponsored by Governor Healey

Status update: Without strategic investments in public education made with the Fiscal Year 2027 state budget, public schools across Massachusetts will remain mired in a fiscal crisis that is compromising their ability to meet the needs of students. MASC has joined with several organizations to form the “United for Our Future” coalition to call for several investments in the state budget. These asks are in addition to our existing priorities.

Action Ask: MASC is urging House Ways & Means (HWM) and Senate Ways & Means (SWM) to release budgets that build upon Governor Healey’s investments. This includes:

- A fix to the inflation calculator used in establishing Chapter 70 funds
- Support for districts facing enrollment declines
- Minimum aid of at least \$150 per student
- Higher state reimbursement rates to districts exceeding spending thresholds for special education
- Full funding for the METCO Program
- Greater reimbursement for transportation costs
- Increased reimbursement for funding lost to charter schools
- Fully funded rural aid
- Investments in student mental health services
- A commission charged with comprehensive evaluation of school funding