

# REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

## RESOLUTION 1—FUNDING FOR K-12 TRANSIENT STUDENT SUCCESS

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS municipalities in the Commonwealth have higher than average populations (20% or more) of mobile students, many of whom are also low income (50%), SPED (25%), and LEP (16% LEP); and

WHEREAS the public school districts in these cities and towns must properly assess these mobile students upon arrival in order to place them in appropriate classes and implement necessary support systems; and

WHEREAS many of these mobile student arrive in the school districts without proper academic, medical and behavioral records as well as with limited and interrupted schooling due to unrest in their countries of origin and/or housing and economic insecurity upon arrival.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file or support legislation that will provide supplemental funding directly to affected school districts to help obtain academic records from schools in the United States and/or the countries of origin and to help provide the proper student supports to better integrate these mobile students into their current school districts.

RATIONALE: This resolution would assure that our schools receive the resources needed to teach properly this population of underserved students and to provide supports and services necessary for their academic achievement. At present, schools must often rely on hasty assessments based on insufficient and unknown data. This resolution with help improve school climate, increase the graduation rate, ensure equity within districts and across the Commonwealth, and alleviate the financial burden on school districts with high percentages of immigrant and mobile students.

## RESOLUTION 2—PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved the participation of the state's public schools in the PARCC program as an iteration of the Commonwealth's testing and assessment system for students, representing an unfunded mandate for those districts that did not sign onto the Race to the Top Program and,

thereby, did not receive federal funding to prepare; and

WHEREAS in general, administration of the tests will require significant technological resources to be available in school districts to administer the tests; and

WHEREAS some regions of the Commonwealth lack wireless Internet service or the capacity to deliver Internet services sufficient for large numbers of students to take performance assessment tests at all; and

WHEREAS many of the state's public school districts do not have the Internet capacity to administer the PARCC assessment program at this time; and

WHEREAS the United States Secretary of Education has indicated that federal waivers may be granted for reasonable delays in implementation of the PARCC program upon request of states,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC call upon the Governor to petition the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and that MASC also petition the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to direct the Commissioner to allow sufficient time for educators to prepare students for the new testing system and for cities, towns and school districts to secure appropriate and adequate technology services and devices to administer the PARCC Program.

## RESOLUTION 3—TEACHER EVALUATION

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS all teachers are entitled to thorough, complete and fair evaluations of their work by professional, experienced educators familiar with their work and qualified and trained to perform such evaluations, and

WHEREAS the time required to do such evaluations, including but not limited to pre/post observation conferences, formal observations and unscheduled classroom visits with timely feedback, the development of individual, annual goals and the documented strategies to achieve them, the review of applicable student achievement data, and the actual formative and summative evaluations is considerable, and

WHEREAS the cost of instructional leadership in the Chapter 70 formula is now limited to the principal and assistant principal positions or equivalent, and

WHEREAS how any service organization treats its “front-line” employees determines its success and there is no service more critical than the education of a community’s children,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports enhanced leadership of all teaching staff to include trained and state administratively certified instructional leaders/department heads/supervisors with the responsibility for an appropriate number of teachers such that the heretofore mentioned supervisory and evaluative tasks can be effectively performed; and

An updated Chapter 70 formula to reflect the increased costs associated with this enhanced leadership/supervision of all teachers in Massachusetts.

RATIONALE: The educator evaluation regulations being implemented by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education increase the burden on school administration and fail to address the costs associated with yet another unfunded mandate. MASC believes this failure increases the likelihood that this critical effort to improve teacher evaluations will, therefore, not succeed. This resolution will correct that deficiency, provide an improved “career ladder” for teachers, and decrease the “trust gap” that currently exists in the evaluation of teachers.

#### **RESOLUTION 4—EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS all Massachusetts educators are required by law and regulation to undergo a comprehensive evaluation based on discrete standards, indicators and elements that encompass performance measures, and

WHEREAS all Massachusetts school committees must provide an annual evaluation of the superintendent based on state standards and criteria, and

WHEREAS no Massachusetts educator or school district administrator is exempt from the requirements of being subjected to a thorough and comprehensive evaluation, and

WHEREAS the new evaluation system will incorporate input from local stakeholders including faculty, parents and students who are subject to the authority of superintendents, principals and teachers, and

WHEREAS the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education is evaluated annually by the state

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education without any input or feedback from stakeholders such as school committee members, superintendents, teachers, students or citizens,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education be requested to solicit and consider in the evaluation process for the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education meaningful input and comment from stakeholder constituencies including school committees, superintendents, parents and other stakeholders, and further, that aggregated comments and input from stakeholder constituencies be made available for public review.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that subsequent iterations of the teacher survey previously known as TellMass or Tells be revised to solicit feedback from educators about the performance of the Commissioner and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the impact of that performance on local district effectiveness, customer service performance, and morale.

#### **RESOLUTION 5—CONFIRMING ACTIONS FROM 2012**

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee. See rationale and explanation on the following page.)

#### **RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY – 2012**

##### **RESOLUTION 1: Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for School Districts**

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

Now, therefore be it resolved that MASC file legislation which would have the effect of establishing a special commission of the Legislature, the purpose of which will be to determine the extent to which public school personnel are required to prepare and submit reports and data that are mandated by state and federal laws, agency regulations, and past practice notwithstanding whether the reports and data are a valuable part of improving student achievement. The commission will identify mandated reports and required submissions of data mandated by law, regulation or administrative directive, and it shall examine their value to benefit student achievement, identify those which are duplicative or redundant, and propose recommendations that may, but are not restricted to, eliminate, modify or otherwise revise them.

Further, be it resolved that the commission shall require that there be a financial and programmatic audit of any proposed regulations or agency directives that shall include a determination of the amount of time deemed to be necessary for compliance with regulations and directives and estimates of all the expenses required for local agencies, including local and regional school districts, charter schools and educational collaboratives, to fulfill the requirements of the regulations and directives on an annual basis before any regulations, directives or mandates are imposed, and further, that no regulations shall be prom-

ulgated by these agencies unless the costs of compliance, administration and implementation are provided to local education agencies, including school districts, charter schools and education collaboratives. The commission will have a year to complete and report their findings to the legislature.

**RESOLUTION 2: Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula**

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

Now, therefore be it resolved that MASC file legislation which would have the effect of modifying the Special Education Circuit Breaker so that the Legislature would assist school districts by helping to fund more of the cost burden of educating students in out-of-district placements, the cost of which is \$125,000 or more by increasing the Special Education Circuit Breaker funding to districts from 75% of the cost after 4 times the foundation formula to 100% of the cost after 4 times the foundation formula.

**RESOLUTION 3: Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School**

(Submitted by the Brookline School Committee)

Be it resolved that MASC supports House Bill H1531 (2012 Session) or any other proposed legislation which would require all government and private health insurers to cover medically necessary expenses for children and young adults with educational deficits and/or learning disabilities from 3 years of age to 22.

**RESOLUTION 4: Funding for Educator Evaluation System**

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Therefore be it resolved that MASC bring to the attention of the Auditor of the Commonwealth that the implementation of a statewide educator evaluation system represents an unfunded mandate under the law, and, further, that the Auditor of the Commonwealth be requested to identify for the General Court the cost of the unfunded mandates related to educator evaluation so identified so that the legislature may appropriate such local financial aid as may be required.

**RESOLUTION 5: Relative to an Adequacy Study**

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Be it resolved that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees reaffirms its advocacy positions on funding of the public schools by calling upon the General Court to take steps necessary to determine the appropriate funding level for public schools and to make such adjustments in the Foundation Budget and Chapter 70 funding formulas as may be required:

- The legislature should ensure that all districts receive sufficient state financial assistance so that all municipalities and regions receive adequate funding, meaning that all districts are able to budget public

schools at or above the state's foundation budget.

- That the foundation budget should be adjusted to meet the true costs of providing an adequate public education for all students.
- In order to make an accurate determination of adequacy, the legislature should authorize a formal "adequacy study" to determine the true cost of providing an appropriate current education.

**RESOLUTION 6: Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools**

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

Be it resolved that MASC file legislation to require that all members of governing boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools be elected by elected or appointed representatives of the elected or appointed member communities or appointed by elected representatives of member school committees.

RATIONALE: MASC develops its association public policy around priorities identified by the Delegate Assembly. Often these issues are addressed once by the Assembly, but some matters evolve or are of sufficient significance to warrant reaffirmation in subsequent years. Last year, the delegates affirmed:

- (1) a special commission to study the time requirements and local cost of compliance with state education reporting mandates and regulations (pending);
- (2) raising the circuit breaker reimbursement for cases over \$125,000 to 100% (funding increased but share remains at 75%);
- (3) private insurance coverage for eligible services provided in school (not approved at this date);
- (4) funding for implementing the cost of the new educator evaluation system (not approved at this date);
- (5) establishment of a Chapter 70 adequacy study (not enacted); and
- (6) appointment of charter school trustees by local officials (not enacted).

The Board of Directors wishes to continue to advocate for these issues with the understanding that the Delegate Assembly agrees.