



181ST

ANNUAL MEETING OF DELEGATES

MAY 8-9

Hynes Convention Center - Boston, MA

NBI 02

2026 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

NBI Name	Date and Time
Oppose the Development of Any Sub-120 Credit Bachelor’s Degree Programs	3/10/2026 0:39

Delegate Making the Motion Matthew Bach	Cell 978-749-0616	Email bachmj@hotmail.com	Association Represented or Retired Andover Education Association
Delegate Seconding the Motion Deb Gesualdo	Cell 774-454-2455	Email gesualdo.me@gmail.com	Association Represented or Retired Malden Education Association

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

In response to the pilot program allowing Massachusetts colleges and universities to propose bachelor’s degrees requiring fewer than 120 credits, the Massachusetts Teachers Association will: 1. Oppose the development of any sub-120 credit bachelor’s degree programs across all three sectors of Massachusetts public higher education 2. Direct MTA officers and staff to notify higher education locals, raise awareness of the threat to public higher education, and provide organizing strategies to prevent the creation of these programs on our campuses 3. Direct MTA officers and staff to inform MTA locals that include high schools about how sub-120 credit programs would restrict students’ future educational opportunities 4. Facilitate collaboration between PK–12 and higher education locals to jointly oppose the creation of these programs

SUBMITTER’S RATIONALE:

A shortened degree pathway would: -Reduce the flexibility students need to explore academic and professional pathways -Shift education toward short-term job training rather than preparation for lifelong adaptability, civic engagement, and intellectual growth -Create a two-tiered system of higher education -Directly conflict with the mission of Massachusetts public higher education to provide accessible, affordable, relevant, and rigorous programs that meet evolving individual and societal needs -Eliminate jobs across our institutions It would also: -Undermine the Board of Higher Education’s commitment—and our institutions’ efforts—to expand, not restrict, access to a comprehensive liberal arts education, particularly for first-generation students -Move in the wrong direction at a time when AI and automation demand stronger grounding in the humanities, ethics, and critical thinking The humanities and social sciences prepare students not only to ask “How?” but also “Why?” and “Should we?”

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

\$0

DUES IMPACT **(For MTA use only):**

\$0

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE **(For MTA use only):**

\$0, 40 hours