

Frequently Asked Question	Response
<p>What is May Day and why does it matter to public school educators?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May Day is International Worker Solidarity Day. Since 1886, May Day has been International Workers Day, when workers unite to stand up for a better world in the face of greed, war, and attacks on the common good. May Day 2026 matters now more than ever. - In Massachusetts, unions have fought to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the minimum wage - Overhaul the education funding formula (more work to be done!) - Pass the Fair Share Amendment to raise billions in progressive revenue dedicated to public education and transportation - Ensure every child in Massachusetts schools receives free lunch - Eliminate the MCAS graduation requirement - And so much more... - But the work isn't done yet! As union members, and as educators, we're standing up with unions across all 50 states by taking action on May Day to stand up for our profession, our students, and our communities. - At the national level, we are fighting for a real affordability agenda that addresses: Universal Basic Needs (e.g. healthcare, childcare), Affordable Housing, and Good Jobs. Read more about the Affordability Agenda here. - Here in Massachusetts our schools from Provincetown to Pittsfield and everywhere in between are in crisis. May Day is an opportunity for us as a statewide union of over 115,000 educators to focus pressure on key decision makers to make demands that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meaningfully address the fiscal crisis - particularly addressing rural aid, - Reign in runaway healthcare costs, - And protect our communities and students from ICE/DHS. - As a union comprised of 400 individual local associations, May Day also presents an opportunity to uplift and center demands in ongoing local fights because a win in one local is a win for all locals!

<p>What is the point of taking this action/what difference will it make?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dress rehearsal, an opportunity to test our structures at the local level but also as a statewide union that may need to draw a clear line in the sand over any number of issues in the weeks and months to come– pointing directly to July 4 and Labor Day, and Election Day. - This is not a one off event, this is one part of a nationally coordinated plan for organized labor across the country to strategically utilize not just May Day 2026 but other upcoming dates of significance this year and beyond to build and test structures / develop our capacity to fight for transformative demands and protect against existential threats. - Across the state many locals are facing severe challenges at the bargaining table. A core principle of May Day is an injury to one is an injury to all. May Day is a call for all of us to stand with colleagues who are struggling.
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<u>DEMANDS/FRAMING/MESSAGING</u>		
<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Protecting Our Democracy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to exercise our internal structure muscles to mobilize members this May Day around the premise that our communities are built on the foundation of free and fair elections - We know that plans are under way to interfere with the midterm elections, from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Fully Fund Public Education</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposition 2.5 continues to strangle our public services, while continuing to saddle the lionshare of spiraling costs on local taxpayers - In one of the wealthiest states, in the wealthiest country, in the history of the world we need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Uplifting Local Demands</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SERO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freetown Lakeville (Override) - METRO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brookline (Override) - Cambridge (Successor) - Belmont (Successor) - NERO:

the benign up to deploying federal troops to polls across the country - a **direct threat** to our ability to exercise our democratic rights

- **ICE Out**

- Keep families together, ICE out of our schools and communities, negative impact on students
- Impact already happening here in Massachusetts:
- Terrified school children
- Students detained
- Families targeted
- Enrollment sharply down in communities around Massachusetts due to fear

- **Workers Over Billionaires**

- Stop the war on working people
- Always money for war and destruction, where is the funding for healthcare and education? We have more in common with the people of the countries we continue to indiscriminately bomb than we do those ordering these attacks.

solutions to meet this moment:

- Strengthening the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program
- Fixing the Chapter 70 inflation cap
- Fully reimbursing regional and non-regional school districts for student transportation costs
- Significantly increasing rural school aid
- Further mitigating the financial impact of charter schools on traditional public schools
- Making targeted investments in the staffing and programs needed to best support student mental health
- **Minimum Educator Wage Bill**
 - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1865292>
- **Single Payer Healthcare**
 - Insurance costs are out of control. Critical funding that could be directed towards increased staffing, raising

- Haverhill
(Successor)

- Stoneham
(Successor)

- **CENTRAL:**

- Worcester
(Successor)

- **WEST:**

- Holyoke
(Successor)

- South Hadley
(Override)

- **HIGHER ED:**

- MCCC

	<p>thousands of educators out of poverty wages, and other pressing needs is instead directed towards private insurance costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We are calling on state leaders to fix this broken insurance system and provide high quality coverage for all public servants while alleviating this cost for local municipalities.- Modern, Humane Paid Family Medical Leave for Public Employees	
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