THE FUNDING CAMPAIGN



FUND REAL LEARNING

THE ISSUE

- Public school districts across the Commonwealth are facing severe underfunding that threatens to undermine their capacity to deliver a high-quality public education to all students.
- State funding is inadequate in meeting the needs of our students. A combination of factors, including issues with the school funding (Chapter 70) formula, high inflation and escalating costs for services, such as transportation, healthcare and special education, have further strained local budgets.
- Fifty-four communities – one-sixth of the total municipalities in the state – placed 74 overrides on the ballot just last year.
- Local educators are doing everything we can in our own cities and towns to support our schools. We need the state to do the same. Massachusetts is one of the wealthiest states in the country, and the state has the resources and solutions it needs to fully fund all of our public schools.

THE APPROACH

- To win structural change at the state level, **educators need to unite across regions and across the state** – while also continuing to organize for education funding at the local level. We need to organize to pressure the governor and the Legislature to prioritize our schools. The governor begins drafting the initial state budget in the fall and the Legislature modifies and passes it in the spring.
- It's no secret that the Senate and House operate with a centralized, top-down power structure. The best way to compel them to action is by building power locally to pressure rank-and-file legislators to be real advocates for our priorities to legislative leadership in the State House. How we pressure legislators may vary depending on the relationship, but legislative leadership needs to hear from legislators all across the state that all our school districts need more funding. Working locally, regionally and statewide, we can organize to build the upward pressure we need to move the State House and win money for our schools.
- Massachusetts educators are some of the best-positioned people in the state to make this push – you are respected voices on education and are organized in communities throughout the state. No one knows how to hold the line for our schools and profession like you do!

GET INVOLVED

Email **fundingcampaign@massteacher.org** to get connected to Funding Campaign organizing happening in your region or join an FCAT meeting at **mobilize.us/massteacher**.

MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

A DIVERSE UNION *of* EDUCATION WORKERS

BACKWARD PLANNING: GOALS & DEMANDS

These goals build on each other politically.

SHORT-TERM
(Nov. & Dec. 2026)

- Pass the $100 million supplemental budget.
- Build initial political pressure to maximize governor's budget & close corporate tax loopholes.

MEDIUM-TERM
(2026-2027 school year)

- Win overrides, local political campaigns and strong contracts.
- Capture state funding at local level.
- Win a strong FY28 state budget by advocating to strengthen the special ed circuit breaker, increase minimum and rural school aid, fix the Chapter 70 inflation glitch, increase charter school tuition reimbursements, and fully fund regional and non-regional school transportation.
- Continue to fight to pass the $100 million in emergency school aid, if needed.

LONG-TERM
(2028 & beyond)

- Fix the chapter 70 formula.
- Reforming Proposition 2.5.
- Wealth tax.
- Single-payer healthcare.
- State candidate elections.

THE DEMANDS

We are organizing to win more money for our schools this year, while working to build the power we need to transform how state funding works.

This year we are organizing to win a strong FY28 budget through a variety of policy changes that will bring funding to our schools. By utilizing existing revenues, such as those raised by the Fair Share Amendment, and cracking down on corporate tax avoidance, the state has more than enough revenue to fund these demands. Specifically, we will be fighting for the following MTA Board-approved priorities, some of which may take multiple budget cycles to fully win:

- Reforming the Special Ed Circuit Breaker. We can shift costs for students receiving out-of-district special education services off districts and onto the state by strengthening the state's Special Education Circuit Breaker. It currently reimburses districts for 75 percent of eligible costs above a certain threshold and we're proposing to both raise that reimbursement rate to 90 percent, while also lowering the cost eligibility threshold. This change would increase resources for local schools by $240 million by shifting to the state costs for students in out-of-district special education programs.
- In addition to that top preK-12 priority, we will continue to support all other strategies for increasing school funding, including rural school aid, reimbursements for charter school tuition, properly reflecting inflation in the Chapter 70 formula, funding for regional and non-regional school transportation and minimum aid.
- Ultimately, we are fighting to fully fund schools through reforming the state funding formula, winning the other fixes described above, making wealthy corporations pay their fair share of taxes, making the ultra-rich pay taxes on their wealth, and winning Medicare for All. It will take all of us working together to build the political power and leverage needed to win these larger demands.

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