



# Chelmsford School Department School Committee

## *Notice of Public Meeting*

Email Posting to [townclerk@townofchelmsford.us](mailto:townclerk@townofchelmsford.us) Thank you.

As required by G.L. c. 30 A, §18-25

Filed with Town Clerk:

**DATE: Tuesday September 2, 2025 TIME: 6:00 p.m. ROOM: Conf. Room 1**

**PLACE: CPS Central Administration Office ADDRESS: 230 North Road**

The Chelmsford School Committee (CSC) intends to conduct an in-person meeting on the date and time specified. The meeting will be live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia for interested community members to access and watch. Interested community members may e-mail Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jay Lang, at [langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us) prior to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 2, 2025 to be scheduled to provide in-person input under the public participation portion(s) of the agenda.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **CHAIR OPENING STATEMENT**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 19, 2025

### **CHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GOOD NEWS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The School Committee will hear from members of the public on items listed under New Business on the posted agenda. Speakers are asked to limit comments to 3 minutes to allow others an opportunity to speak. The School Committee will not respond directly to public comments, however will try to address comments when the item is reached on the agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Opening of Schools for the 2025/26 School Year
2. FY2026 Recommended Budget Transfers
3. Circuit Breaker Reserve Relief
4. MASC Resolutions - Fall 2025 Membership Meeting

## **REPORTS**

1. Liaison Reports

## **ACTION/NEW ITEMS**

1. Request for Reports & Updates

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The School Committee will hear from members of the public on general matters of education interest. Speakers are asked to limit comments to 3 minutes to allow others an opportunity to speak. The School Committee will not respond directly to public comments, however will try to address comments at future meetings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**CHELMSFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 19, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mr. Dennis King (Chair), Ms. Maria Santos (Vice Chair), Ms. Diana Lebeaux (Secretary), Ms. Susan Mackinnon and Mr. John Moses.

**Also present:** Dr. Jay Lang (Superintendent), Dr. Linda Hirsch (Assistant Superintendent) and Ms. Joanna Johnson-Collins (Director of Business & Finance)

**Call to Order**

Mr. King called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chair Opening Statement**

"This meeting is being live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. In-person public participation will be taking place tonight in accordance with the Chelmsford School Committee Public Participation Policy. Anyone speaking tonight during the public input portion of this meeting has notified the superintendent's office of their desire to speak and has been provided with these guidelines. Upon request written comments received no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of this meeting will also be read and made part of the record of the meeting during the second public comment session."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Approval of the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 5, 2025**

**Ms. Santos moved to approve the minutes of the regular school committee meeting of August 5, 2025. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

**GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Hirsch shared that teachers are back and setting up classrooms and tomorrow and Thursday new teacher orientation will be held.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2025/26 Return to School Update**

Dr. Lang shared an update on returning to school for the 2025/26 school year. Beginning with student enrollment he shared slides providing data by schools and grade levels. Total

enrollment totals 5,120 students as of yesterday. During the first few weeks of school there are typically additional new students who enroll. There are about 800 students at McCarthy with about 840 at Parker. For this reason, an additional fifth grade section was added to Parker. Ms. Johnson-Collins provided an update on transportation stating that in a typical year there are about 3,400 students who ride 29 busses. As of now 3,194 students have registered to ride. Bus passes were sent home on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lang then shared the many capital projects that have been completed this year or will be completed by mid-September. These include five schools having received secured entrances. At Parker, in addition to the secured entry a split A/C unit was installed in the teachers' room and acoustical panels were placed in the band/orchestra room. At McCarthy: two accordion walls were replaced with permanent ones; the SRO office wall was enclosed; the ramp near the nurse's office was rebuilt; electrical switchgear maintenance and new electrical panels were installed; new boilers were installed, and 43 new parking spaces were created in front of the building. Also, at McCarthy renovations of the sports space is underway for basketball, street hockey, tennis and pickleball and will be completed within the next three weeks and will include a play area for families and younger children. At the four elementary schools motorized basketball hoops were installed to facilitate height adjustments. The library at Byam was fully renovated. New window shades were installed at Center. At Harrington the hardwood gym floor was refinished and striped. At South Row A/C was installed in the teachers' room and new bottle fillers installed in the corridors. At CHS the Athletic Training Room was renovated and included some unexpected plumbing work. Also, the PAVE special education classroom was renovated and all exterior metal surfaces of CHS were given an updated coat of paint in maroon. Bill Silver, our Technology Director, saw that the secure vestibule hardware and software necessary upgrades were completed for all schools. At Harrington a pilot was done this summer to enhance the clock/intercom and security systems. All these highlights were well-received by The Committee!

## **2. Personnel Report – July 2025**

Dr. Lang shared that a job fair was held today to hire more paraprofessionals and lunch and recess aids. The end of last week two teachers resigned and these positions are actively being posted with interviews to follow.

No action required on the Personnel Report.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

none

## **ACTION/NEW ITEMS**

Mr. King shared that the Building Committee will be meeting Thursday. Next Tuesday The Designer Selection Panel will meet to narrow down six applicants to two or three. The MSBA Selection Meeting will be held two weeks after that.

Ms. Lebeaux would like to see discussions on AI and policies for its guidance. She has recently attended meetings where policy discussions have taken place. Ms. Santos would like to see if State and Federal funding might support AI integration into the schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT at 6:42 p.m.**

**Ms. Santos moved to adjourn. Mr. Moses seconded. Motion carries 5-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sharon Giglio, Recording Secretary*

# CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Memorandum

To: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Members of the School Committee

From: Joanna Johnson-Collins, Director of Business & Finance

Date: August 29, 2025

Re: FY2026 Recommended Budget Transfer – Lane Changes

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I am writing to request one budget transfer for FY2026.

This budget transfer request is shifting budget funds from the salary reserve lane change account. The FY2026 local budget had one-line item of \$ 128,443 to account for the lane changes for employees who achieved a higher degree (i.e. Bachelors to Masters). This budget transfer is to move funds from the one line (account) into the various labor account numbers associated with the employees who received their lane change increase. The employee's new salary will be reflected on their first pay date of the school year.

From		To		Amount
12305000-51460	SALARY RESERVE LANE CHANGE	12210700	51003	3,000
		12305228	51050	5,361
		12305274	51050	5,493
		12305278	51050	5,493
		12305284	51050	6,456
		12305339	51050	11,386
		12305400	51050	17,071
		12305474	51050	4,883
		12305500	51050	7,828
		12305600	51050	7,548
		12305700	51050	4,883
		12310076	51054	5,493
		12310476	51054	5,493
		12310676	51054	9,625
		12310776	51054	5,493
		12340300	51050	5,386
		12710200	51050	954
			<b>Total</b>	<b>111,846</b>

*I recommend the school committee vote to approve this FY2026 local operating budget transfer of \$111,846 from the salary reserve lane change account to the various labor accounts as presented.*

# CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Memorandum

To: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Members of the School Committee

From: Joanna Johnson-Collins, Director of Business & Finance

Date: August 29, 2025

Re: Circuit Breaker Reserve Relief

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I am writing to update the school committee on our receipt of funds totaling \$ 408,963 in May 2024 (FY2024) from the state under the Circuit Breaker Reserve Relief Program. The amount received was based on our FY2024 Circuit Breaker Claim to DESE – which is primarily special education out-of-district tuition and special education transportation costs.

The amount of \$ 408,963 was reduced from our quarterly circuit breaker reimbursement payments received in FY2025 since we received the Reserve Relief funds a few months in advance. The total amount of FY2025 circuit breaker reimbursements originally estimated from DESE was \$ 3,557,051. This amount is reflected in the FY2026 operating budget as the offset to the circuit breaker fund (one year of revenue). On June 30, 2025 the fourth quarter circuit breaker reimbursement payment was slightly higher by \$35,246 for a total FY2025 reimbursement of \$ 3,592,297. Please see the attached chart.

The Circuit Breaker Reserve Relief funds were allowed to be carried forward one fiscal year and needed to be expended by June 30, 2025. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) contacted the Town Accountant as part of the review of the Town's FY2025 balance sheet on August 20, 2025. The DOR's guidance to the Town is to close the \$ 408,963 to the general fund, as the DOR does not include the \$ 408,963 in the allowable Circuit Breaker carry forward balance for use in FY2026. This would mean the Town's free cash amount at the end of FY2025 is \$ 408,963 greater than expected and the school department's FY2026 budgeted offset to circuit breaker for out-of-district tuition is \$ 408,963 less than expected.

The Superintendent and I met with the Town Manager Cohen, Town Accountant Lussier and Town Finance Director Sousa on August 28, 2025. Town Manager Cohen will bring forward a recommendation to the Finance Committee and the Select Board to include a warrant article at the Town Fall Meeting to allocate the extra \$ 408,963 in free cash to the school department in FY2026 for special education out-of-district tuition costs. The recommendation is for these funds to be in a separate account tied to the warrant article and not increase the school department's FY2026 annual appropriation or place the funds in the existing circuit breaker fund (310). Upon approval at Fall Town Meeting, we will charge FY2026 special education out-of-district tuition to the new separate account and include that new account in all of our FY2026 special education out-of-district tuition reporting.

This action will allow the Town to finalize its year end report with the DOR and certify FY2025 free cash, as well as provide for the school department to fulfill its intent to use the full \$ 3.5 million FY2025 circuit breaker reimbursement as an FY2026 budget offset to special education tuition.

FY2024 Revenue Activity		FY2025 Revenue Activity		Total FY2025 Circuit Breaker Reimbursement		Notes
\$ 289,082						Reserve Relief (early 2025 revenue)
\$ 119,881						Reserve Relief (early 2025 revenue)
		\$ 787,022				1Q payment
		\$ 787,022				2Q payment
		\$ 787,022				3Q payment
		\$ 822,268				4Q payment + true-up (787,022 + 35,246)
\$ 408,963		\$ 3,183,334		\$ 3,592,297		

FY25 CB Reimbursement received in FY24: \$ 408,963

FY25 CB Reimbursement received in FY25: \$ 3,183,334

Total FY25 CB Reimbursement: \$ 3,592,297

FY26 Budget Book Offset: \$ 3,557,051 Anticipated FY25 CB Reimbursement (true-up unknown at budget time)

True-Up: \$ 35,246 Additional reimbursement for eligible claims



# CHELMSFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

## **Memorandum**

To: Members of the School Committee  
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Date: September 2, 2025  
Re: MASC Resolutions – Fall 2025 Membership Meeting

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Attached is a list of the resolutions that will be considered at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC) Members. A listing of the resolutions is as follows:

- Resolution 1 Removing BMI Testing from Schools
- Resolution 2 Reauthorization of Previously Approved Resolutions
- Resolution 3 Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students
- Resolution 4 Increasing the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund
- Resolution 5 Membership on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Resolution 6 Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools
- Resolution 7 Personal Financial Literacy Education
- Resolution 8 Establishment of a Regional School Committee Assessment Reserve Fund

I recommend the school committee members review these resolutions and vote at a future meeting to either support or reject each resolution to be recorded at the Fall Membership meeting in November at the Joint MASS/MASC conference by the school committee delegate.

# Report of the resolutions committee

Members of the Resolutions Committee met remotely on June 23, 2025 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Denise Hurst, MASC President-Elect, Chair (Springfield), Kathryn Hubley (Quincy), Rebecca Socco (Grafton), Jessica Corwin (Sunderland and Frontier Regional), Carey Etchells (Deerfield), Robin Zoll (Southeastern Vocational Technical School), Tony Mullin (Westwood), Paul Schlichtman (Arlington), Barbara Davis (Holbrook). Also Present: Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director

The following resolution was moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

## RESOLUTION 1: REMOVING BMI TESTING FROM SCHOOLS

*(Submitted by the Grafton School Committee)*

WHEREAS the BMI formula was developed in 1832 based on measuring a population of adult men—presumably all white. Not only does it not accurately represent racial & ethnic differences in normal body composition or normal developmental shifts as students move through puberty, but it does also not differentiate fat from muscle mass or fat distribution on the body, which would be necessary to categorize health implications. BMI is not a useful health screening tool.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/ji02014147>, <https://www.nature.com/articles/ij0200887>, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10693914/>

WHEREAS body size is determined by a complex combination of medical, social, socioeconomic, genetic, and environmental factors, but is often viewed as a lifestyle choice. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/iamapediatrics/article-abstract/2698457>,

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S001393511930355X?via%3Dihub>

WHEREAS school faculty and staff do not have the training to appropriately diagnose or manage complex physical health conditions leading to an increased BMI in students, nor should it be their job. Students are required by law to have updated physical examinations by a health care provider before entering school and every 3-4 years thereafter and any serious health conditions should be managed by a medical professional. 105 CMR 200.100

WHEREAS specialized training of at least two (2) staff members at each school is required to perform BMI screenings., Additionally, the required specialized spaces and protocols for privacy cost districts precious resources. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bmi-screening-guidelines-for-schools/download>

WHEREAS the screening guidelines do not suggest any sort of in-school intervention - only reporting the scores to MDPH and students' guardians. Even if they did, school-based physical activity and nutrition interventions for ages 6-12 have shown no significant change in BMI. <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/9/4/396>

WHEREAS studies show that 50% of preadolescent girls and 30% of preadolescent boys dislike their bodies. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to internalizing messages focused on ideal weight to health and self-worth.

[https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(16\)31197-2/abstract](https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(16)31197-2/abstract)

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0139177>

WHEREAS BMI testing has not been shown to improve BMI scores but has the potential to increase weight stigma. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/iamapediatrics/fullarticle/2773004>

WHEREAS global eating disorder prevalence of adolescents increased from 3.5% to 7.8% from 2001 to 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aicn/nay342>

WHEREAS preadolescents and adolescents using weight control strategies such as dieting, fasting, etc, show higher BMI's later in life than those who do not participate in these strategies. [https://www.iahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(11\)00176-5/fulltext](https://www.iahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(11)00176-5/fulltext)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the removal of the BMI screening requirement from all public schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges the express banning of BMI screening in all public schools.

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## REAUTHORIZATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. Expiring resolutions may be reconsidered and readopted by the delegates at the annual meeting at which the resolutions would expire. The rationale for the amendment was that it:

- Permits three years of focus on resolutions which overlaps with two legislative cycles.
- Provides an additional opportunity for school committees to be involved in the resolution process by championing resolutions that are set to expire.
- Allows the Association to affirm what's important to the current membership by re-adoption.
- Clears expired, less relevant, or no longer supported resolutions for new priorities.

Following are the six resolutions set to expire this November unless reauthorized by a vote of the Delegate Assembly.

- **Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students**
- **To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund**
- **Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**
- **Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools**
- **Personal Financial Literacy Education**
- **Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund**

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### REGARDING SANCTUARY LAWS FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

*(Submitted by the Lexington School Committee and co-sponsored by the Worcester, Somerville, Grafton, and Franklin School Committees)*

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a long history of standing for civil rights, including advocacy for a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS Massachusetts codified gender identity as a protected class in the 2011 Act Relative to Gender Identity, and WHEREAS all children deserve a safe environment in which to grow up, and

WHEREAS some state governments are now criminalizing supportive medical care for trans individuals; moving to bar families from traveling to access such care; and otherwise violating the civil rights of trans children and their families, and

WHEREAS the defense of the civil rights of the historically marginalized is contained within the first article of the Massachusetts Constitution right of “seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness,”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Great and General Court to join with other states in the passage of so-called “sanctuary” laws to ensure such children and their families have “the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their natural rights and the blessings of life,” as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

RATIONALE: The 2011 passage of the Act Relative to Gender Identity marked a Massachusetts commitment to the civil rights of transgender residents. Laws recently passed or being considered in other states would put into question this protection, as some such laws call for families to be prosecuted for seeking medical treatment for their children, even across state lines. This is a profound violation of the civil rights of these children, and it increases the potential

harm both to them and to their families. In response, a number of states are considering so-called sanctuary laws which would shield families from such prosecution, extended to those children the rights guaranteed to them by Massachusetts law. As of the passage of this resolution, no such bills have been filed in Massachusetts. The Legislature must back up the 2011 Act with this further protection.

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### INCREASING THE MAXIMUM BALANCE ALLOWED BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND

*(Submitted by the Plympton School Committee)*

WHEREAS the Municipal Modernization Act allows for municipalities in conjunction with their school districts to create a Special Education Reserve Fund to cover the cost of unanticipated or unbudgeted special education cost, including the cost of out of district placements and special education transportation; and

WHEREAS the current language of the Special Education Reserve Fund caps the balance at 2 percent of annual net school spending which for many rural and small districts does not leave enough in reserves to meet the needs of a single student who is placed into a collaborative setting, never mind a student who may be medically fragile and in need of an intensive residential placement; and

WHEREAS school districts with large student bodies are more likely to experience multiple unanticipated and unbudgeted special education related expenses throughout the school year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend Chapter 40, Section 13E, by deleting “2 percent of the annual net school spending” and by inserting the following “5 percent of the annual net school spending.”

Rationale: Current prices for special education day programs in Massachusetts Collaborates can cost a district between \$50,000 to \$70,000 per student and private provider day programs can cost districts between per student. These prices do not include the cost to transport the students to these separate settings which is part of the overall price and can fluctuate in cost. Private residential special education settings can cost a district between per student. The 5 percent cap would allow for deeper investment of the municipality's own monies, towards preventing mid-year budget crisis and positioning the school district to have the ability to provide an appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting to all students. The 5 percent cap would also allow reserves to grow to a sustainable level which hopefully would not be wiped out by a single year of special education-related expenses.

## **MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

*(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)*

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has broad powers to set education policy and enact regulations for Massachusetts public schools; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has the power to choose a receiver to replace an elected school committee; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education governs educator licensure in Massachusetts; and  
WHEREAS practicing educators and school committee members are prohibited from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS the teaching profession is the only profession or trade in Massachusetts where the holders of a license are prohibited from serving on its governing board; and  
WHEREAS professional expertise and a commitment to public governance should not disqualify a person from serving in a leadership role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of legislation to repeal the provision of Massachusetts law that prohibits practicing educators and sitting school committee members from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for legislation to reconstitute the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by including members with expertise as licensed educators and members with expertise in public school governance.

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## **PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS**

*(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)*

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has exercised its power to take over school districts in Lawrence in 2011, Holyoke in 2015, and Southbridge in 2016; and

WHEREAS the placement of the public schools of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge in receivership has removed their respective school committees from their role as the governing board for their schools, and has replaced local governance with a state receiver; and

WHEREAS a Boston Globe analysis of test scores, graduation rates, college enrollment, and a dozen other metrics in Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge shows state receivers have failed to meet almost all of its stated goals for the districts; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has no plan, strategy, or timeline for restoring local governance and accountability to the voters of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Association of School Committees asserts that a strong system of local governance and accountability is the foundation of excellent schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to restore local governance and accountability for the Lawrence, and Southbridge Public Schools no later than July 1, 2026, recognizing that Holyoke was removed from receivership on July 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation to limit any future state takeovers to a term of no more than three years.

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## **PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION**

*(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)*

WHEREAS students will need to make wise financial decisions to promote financial well-being throughout their lives, and

WHEREAS students will need to develop actionable strategies to manage their futures, including managing their budgets by developing savings plans, navigating credit and debt, and creating a blueprint for financing higher education or their careers, and

WHEREAS students will need to be informed consumers when making everyday purchases for both small and large items, and

WHEREAS with guidance and financial literacy, students have increased chances of affording and attaining a college education;

WHEREAS without prior long-term financial planning, higher education plans do not come to fruition for many students due to extraordinary tuition rates;

WHEREAS college tuitions and other financial choices, such as credit card debt and loans, can saddle students with a lifetime of debt due to their inability to pay back student and other type of loans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT MASC file legislation that would have the effect of ensuring that all students have exposure to personal financial literacy curricula and, ultimately, graduate from high school with the lifelong knowledge of how to be fiscally responsible to avoid being deterred by financial woes. This legislation should ensure that the students at various levels would benefit from curriculum in Massachusetts' public schools would include content in personal financial literacy.

RATIONALE: Because many students and their families today do not plan far enough ahead for college tuition, many students are not able to attend institutes of higher learning or need to drop out due to inadequate funds. This resolution will help to ensure that students are knowledgeable about the best options available to them in order to be fiscally responsible and receive the best advice in attaining their goals by being educated about the best options for paying tuitions, use of credit cards, securing personal loans (including car loans) etc.

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## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESERVE FUND**

(Submitted by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS Regional School Committees of the Commonwealth are tasked with producing financially sound budgets designed to meet the needs of all their students just like all public school committees of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS municipalities of Regional Schools are presented with Regional Assessments which can fluctuate dramatically based on enrollment percentage changes and can be further exacerbated by unbalanced adjustments of the Equalized Valuation (EQV) of property, a key metric in the states formula used to calculate the minimum required local contribution; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the State of Massachusetts passed the Municipal Modernization Act which aimed to grant more local control and encouraged financial efficiencies where possible, the precedent exists in statute to support the creation of a Regional Schools Assessment Reserve Fund

which could be used to offset abnormally large increases to a municipality's regional assessment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to enact or amend legislation which permits municipalities to establish a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund.

To amend M.G.L. Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, by inserting Section 13F as follows  
Chapter 40, Section 13F

### **Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund for payments towards future Regional Assessments**

Any municipality which accepts this section by a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body may establish and appropriate or transfer money to a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay for the Regional Assessment in years when the Regional Assessment increases by more than 35% over the previous year's Regional Assessment. The balance in the reserve fund shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual Regional Assessment for the municipality.

Funds shall only be distributed from the reserve funds after a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body in years when the Regional Assessment is more than 3.5% in order to bring the Regional Assessment down to no less than 2.5% increase. The municipal treasurer may invest the monies in the manner authorized in section 54 of chapter 44 and any interest earned thereon shall be credited to and become part of the fund.