



**MASSACHUSETTS
EDUCATION JUSTICE
ALLIANCE**



TALKING POINTS AND MESSAGING

Public education is why Massachusetts is a great place to live and work. But our future is put at risk when some communities and students have access to a great public education, while other communities and students don't.

This fundamental lack of fairness, and the risk it presents to our Commonwealth's future, has happened because the state has not lived up to its promise to fund our public schools and colleges, as the state's 2014 Higher Education Finance Commission and 2015 Foundation Budget Review Commission reports show.

We know what to do—fund our public schools and colleges and pass the bill by May 2019.

Students can't afford to wait.

Our Vision for Public Education



Great public schools have small class sizes, full art and music programs, access to after school activities, fully-staffed classrooms, school librarians, nurses, and more.

Public higher education must be debt-free, and we must stop forcing students and families into massive debt. All faculty and staff must have a respect and good wages.

Public education drives the quality of life in all of our communities.

Why haven't Beacon Hill lawmakers been cherishing our public schools and colleges?

An Urgent Crisis



We are in an education funding crisis. Schools and colleges are falling apart. Students can't wait any longer.

Some have no nurses, no librarians, no art and music, and crumbling buildings.

Massachusetts students face the fastest-growing public college costs and second-fastest growing student debt burden in the nation. Campus buildings are crumbling. Many adjuncts faculty and staff make poverty wages.

Equity and Fairness for Every Student



End systemic underfunding in gateway cities, urban districts, and communities of color.

All students deserve great public education from Pre-K through college.

It is an outrage that some students don't have the essentials. We must end underfunding.

More high-stakes testing over past 25 years has not achieved equity for Black and Brown students. In fact, testing has hurt equity and damaged our classrooms and curriculums.

We Want Real Accountability



Students and teachers have done our part. Long overdue for state to live up to its end of the bargain. We will hold our elected officials accountable to their promises.

If their version of "accountability" means more testing and punishment, we have 25 years of evidence that testing and punishment is proven not to work.

Local school committees are accountable to our communities and we want local democratic control.