



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MARTIN J. WALSH

March 18, 2019

Dear friend,

On March 22, 2019, I will head to the State House to testify at [the Joint Committee on Education](#) in support of reforming the Commonwealth's education funding formula to better serve all students across the state. We need to come together to address current funding inequities and expand the level of resources available to all K-12 public education systems in the Commonwealth. **I invite you to join a broad coalition of Massachusetts mayors and over 100 legislators to advocate for an equitable, updated funding solution.**

Providing a high-quality education to every child is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of government, and I am so proud of the investments we have made in Boston and the results we have seen. This year, I am proposing a \$1.14 billion budget for Boston Public Schools, the most in our history. We have lengthened the school day, added 1,000 pre-kindergarten seats, strengthened the curriculum, and modernized facilities. It is clear to me that these investments produce strong results. We have more high-performing schools than ever before. Our graduation rate is at a record high. And we are one of the few urban districts in the country that makes consistent gains on national tests.

For all of our hard-earned successes, Boston, along with communities across the Commonwealth, contends with a state funding formula that is inadequate, inequitable, and outdated. [As a recent Globe article pointed out](#), under the current Chapter 70 funding formula, the amount of state aid Boston has received as a share of its total educational expenses has dwindled from almost a third to less than five percent; if this trend continues, our net state education aid may fall to zero within two years. The Chapter 70 formula has not been updated in 26 years - if we are going to amend it at long last, let's do it right, in a way that takes care of our most vulnerable students.



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This problem is not unique to Boston. I have joined a coalition of mayors from Greater Boston and over 100 legislators from across the state, advocating with a unified voice, that any final reform must provide funding for every district. The Commonwealth has not kept up its responsibility to support our highest-need student populations. We are urging the Legislature to fully implement the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission for how the Chapter 70 formula could better reflect the costs related to all populations. But that alone will not help Boston students and many other children across Massachusetts. Any final reform must go one step further by guaranteeing a minimum level of funding for *every* district. This provides sustainability and predictability, and would lead to direct increases in state aid for Boston, but also for communities like Lawrence, Easthampton, Cambridge, Springfield, and many others.

I hope that you will join me on March 22 in support of more equitable education funding. I also urge you to contact your representative or senator on this important matter. Then, you can forward this note to your friends across the Commonwealth, and ask them to do the same.

Every young person deserves the same opportunity to learn, to dream, and to thrive. This is a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that opportunity is spread equitably across our state. Let's work together to advance this important conversation.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston