



## MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

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April 1, 2025

Sen. Edward J. Markey  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren  
Rep. Jake Auchincloss  
Rep. Katherine Clark  
Rep. William Keating

Rep. Stephen Lynch  
Rep. James McGovern  
Rep. Seth Moulton  
Rep. Richard Neal  
Rep. Ayanna Pressley  
Rep. Lori Trahan

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

We are writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.), which represents more than 700 district leaders from 276 school districts across the Commonwealth.

In the 10 weeks since Inauguration Day, the Trump Administration has issued a barrage of directives that have left our school districts and the professionals who lead them in a state of upheaval, uncertainty, and fear. Like so many across the country, we are continuously trying to make sense of executive orders and federal mandates pertaining to funding, immigration, and diversity, equity, and inclusion – to name just a few – that have significant implications for our schools, our staff, and the students and families we serve.

We are writing today to seek your advocacy on **two critical issues related to the U.S. Department of Education** (USDOE).

First, we are deeply troubled by the swift and irresponsible **dismantling of the federal agency** that plays a crucial role in the oversight of public education. While we recognize that a great deal of authority rests with state and local bodies, the USDOE has numerous roles and responsibilities that must be upheld. We are extremely concerned about the more than **\$2 billion in federal education funds** currently awarded to Massachusetts through USDOE.

- Last year, Massachusetts schools received more than \$285 million in Title I grants alone, the largest source of federal funds for K-12 schools, to educate **students from low-income families**.
- Through Title II, Massachusetts received more than \$30 million last year to support effective instruction, including innovative programs to enhance **teacher performance**.
- Title III grants enable our schools to educate a growing population of **English learners**, with nearly \$20.5 million awarded to Massachusetts last year.

- Our communities rely heavily on funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including resources for early intervention and preschool programs, as well as **special education services** for students through age 21.
- Massachusetts continues to lead the way in **career and technical education** (CTE), offering innovative technical-vocational programs to prepare graduates for successful careers, thanks in part to federal Perkins funding – \$23.4 million last year alone.

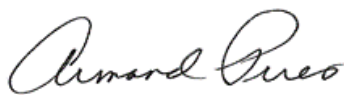
Many other federal grant programs support schools that are meeting the needs of some of our most vulnerable students, including families living in rural poverty and those experiencing homelessness. As the fate of the USDOE hangs in the balance, so do these critical funding sources. The federal agency also provides essential oversight to ensure the protection of students' civil rights. In addition to the agency's role in pre-kindergarten through high school, we are deeply concerned about college access, financial aid, and other negative impacts on our students' post-secondary aspirations if USDOE is decimated.

Second, we are outraged that school districts were blindsided last week by Secretary McMahon's sudden decision to **repeal the extensions that were granted to spend federal pandemic relief funds**. Under this reversal, Massachusetts stands to lose nearly \$106 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds that had been allocated to state and local education agencies. In some cases, the USDOE had approved the deadline extensions as recently as February. Now, twenty school districts in nearly every region of the state – including Greater Boston, Western Massachusetts, Cape Cod, South Coast, North Shore, and Central Massachusetts – are scrambling to account for the potential loss of funds that had been spent or earmarked for pandemic recovery investments, including tutoring and other academic supports, mental health services, and facilities projects, such as air quality improvement and security upgrades.

We urge you to leverage any tools at your disposal to halt the seemingly endless assault on public education. President Trump has repeatedly vowed to make the United States education system the best in the world. On the contrary, these actions threaten to cripple our schools and districts, and ultimately, have a disastrous impact on teaching and learning for many years to come.

We cannot let this attempt to destroy our public school systems go unchallenged. We stand ready to partner with you, along with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and other allies, to do whatever is necessary to ensure a bright future for students here in Massachusetts and across the United States.

Sincerely,



Armand R. Pires, Ph.D.  
Superintendent, Medway Public Schools  
President, M.A.S.S.



Mary M. Bourque, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, M.A.S.S.