

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

To: All School Committee Members and Superintendents
From: Stephen J. Finnegan Esq., MASC General Counsel
Re: Final FY 2014 State Budget
Date: July 31, 2013

RE: MAJOR EDUCATION ACCOUNTS

The final 2014 budget has been voted on and was approved by the Governor on July 12, 2013. Elementary and secondary education did very well in the final FY 2014 Budget. The following accounts show the recommendations of the House and Senate budget and the final approved amount:

METCO

House	Senate	Final
\$18,642,582	\$18,142,582	\$18,642,582

Chapter 70

House	Senate	Final
\$4.285 B -	\$4.301 B -	\$4.301 B

Literacy Programs

House	Senate	Final
\$1,800,000 -	\$3,000,000 -	\$2,300,000

Foundation Reserve One Time Assistance

House	Senate	Final
\$ -	\$2,000,000 -	\$2,000,000

Kindergarten Expansion Grants

House	Senate	Final
\$23,948,947 -	\$20,000,000 -	\$23,948,947

Special Education Circuit Breaker

House	Senate	Final
\$238,489,224 -	\$252,819,241 -	\$252,489,224

Adult Basic Education

House	Senate	Final
\$30,174,160 -	\$30,174,160 -	\$30,174,160

Public School Military Mitigation

House	Senate	Final
\$400,000 -	\$1,300,000 -	\$1,300,000

Homeless Student Transportation

House	Senate	Final
\$6,050,000 -	\$7,350,000 -	\$7,350,000

Charter School Reimbursements

House	Senate	Final
\$70,454,914 -	\$76,354,914 -	\$75,000,000

Regional School Transportation

House	Senate	Final
\$46,021,000 -	\$51,521,000 -	\$51,521,000

Extended Learning Grants

House	Senate	Final
\$14,168,030 -	\$13,768,030 -	\$14,168,030

Non-Resident Pupil Transportation

House	Senate	Final
\$200,000 -	\$3,000,000 -	\$3,000,000

AMENDMENTS TO ANTI-BULLYING LAW

The state budget for Fiscal Year 2014 amended the Anti-Bullying Law as underlined. These changes became effective on July 1, 2013. Please review and contact your local counsel to determine whether or not these amendments will require any immediate changes for your district.

Advanced Placement Math & Science Programs

House	Senate	Final
\$2,000,000 -	\$2,600,000 -	\$2,600,000

over

Chapter 71, Section 37O (Excerpts reflecting new amendments)

“Bullying”, the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim’s property; (ii) places the victim in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the victim; (iv) infringes on the rights of the victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. For the purposes of this section, bullying shall include cyber-bullying.

“Perpetrator”, a student or a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional who engages in bullying or retaliation.

Delete the first paragraph of subsection (d) and insert in place thereof the following:

(d) Each school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall develop, adhere to and update a plan to address bullying prevention and intervention in consultation with teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, students, parents and guardians. The plan shall apply to students and members of a school staff, including, but not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to an extracurricular activity

and paraprofessionals. The consultation shall include, but not be limited to, notice and a public comment period; provided, however, that a non-public school shall only be required to give notice to and provide a comment period for families that have a child attending the school. The plan shall be updated at least biennially.

These amendments became effective on July 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Executive Office of Public Safety is in the process of selecting a vendor to handle the fingerprinting, and the legislature is working on technical amendments to the law needed to access the federal database. Districts should continue to use the Massachusetts CORI law. It is not likely that the National Background Checks law will be implemented prior to September. MASC recommends that your employee application form explicitly note that hiring of the applicant is subject to a National Background and CORI check, satisfactory to the employer, and is a condition of hiring or continuation of employment prior to the receipt of the above referenced criminal checks.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference

November 6-9, 2013
Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

www.masc.org

School district budget and other fiscal and legislative issues will be a featured part of the Joint Conference program. Register now to attend these vital sessions and discuss the issues directly with leading education and legislative leaders.