

Whereas it is the duty of the school committee to set policies for the education of the children in our community; and

Whereas as reported by MASS Executive Director Tom Scott, based on information available on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website, between 1996 and 2008 (13 years), there was a total of 4,055 documents (312 on average per year) that required action by local school districts in response to externally imposed mandates and regulations, yet that number increased drastically to a total of 5,382 documents (an average of 1077 per year) between 2009-2013.

Whereas educators in our community are having difficulty carrying out their responsibilities due to this rising tide of state mandates, including most recently, a state teacher evaluation system, "district-determined measures," and PARCC field testing, requiring educators to respond first to bureaucratic requirements rather than classroom instruction; therefore

We call on the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to refrain from adding new test mandates and other initiatives and to revisit the mandates already imposed on districts with a view to reducing interference with classroom instruction, thus allowing educators to do their work.