Massachusetts General Law Chapter 149 §§ 26-27, requires contractors, performing work for any public construction project to pay their employees prevailing wages. Worcester's Department of Public Works (DPW) is the awarding authority for the City of Worcester (including the Worcester Public Schools) on all MSBA construction and Accelerated Repair projects

The awarding authority, in this case DPW, is responsible for receiving weekly certified payroll reports from all contractors and subcontractors, which must be kept on file for all projects subject to the prevailing wage law.