

The Problem

Despite progress in improving student learning since Education Reform began in 1993, there are still too many students who aren't succeeding. Research shows conclusively that individual teaching and leadership expertise are the most important variables in improving student achievement. However, Massachusetts is not systemically ensuring that educators adhere to rigorous standards and receive the training, support, and accountability needed.

The People

The Working Group for Educator Excellence is a state-wide coalition of educational stakeholders committed to ensuring that every student has access to high quality teaching. The coalition, growing since 2004 in numbers and commitment, includes representatives from unions, professional associations, educational organizations, higher education, business associations, advocacy groups and members of the legislature working together to provide a complete and systematic approach to support high quality teaching across the Commonwealth.

The Solution

The Working Group for Educator Excellence proposed to solve the educator expertise problem by promoting a comprehensive system to reform personnel policies for teachers and school leaders, from training to induction to retention. This approach draws on research and national best practices. The result is consistent standards, better support, and more rigorous accountability for teachers and school leaders, with improved student performance and long-term cost savings for Massachusetts. Enhancing the quality of teaching and school leadership will result in better student performance and long-term cost savings for the Commonwealth.

The 25 supporting organizations of the Working Group for Educator Excellence are: American Federation of Teachers – Massachusetts, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education, Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, Massachusetts Association of College and University Reading Educators, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Massachusetts Association of School Personnel Administrators, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers, Massachusetts Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association, Massachusetts Foreign Language Association, Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives, Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association, Massachusetts Reading Association, Massachusetts School Library Association, Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association, Massachusetts Teachers Association, MassCUE, Small Business Association of New England, Stand for Children, Strategies for Children, Teachers²¹, and the Urban Superintendents' Network.

