

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01083**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Martha M. Walz*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to parental involvement in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01083

By Ms. Marty Walz of Boston, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 01083) of Martin J. Walsh and others relative to parental involvement in schools.. Joint Committee on Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to parental involvement in schools.

*Whereas*, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is forthwith to increase parental involvement in schools , therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended by section 5 of chapter 92 of the Acts
- 2 of 2010, is hereby further amended by inserting after section 37O the following section:-
- 3 Section 37P. (a) Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school
- 4 and collaborative school shall have a written parental involvement policy. Said policy shall be
- 5 developed, and from time to time revised, in consultation with parents and guardians who have a
- 6 child who attends the school. Parents or guardians shall be notified of the policy in an
- 7 understandable format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can

8 understand. Said policy shall be posted on the website of each school district, charter school,  
9 approved private day or residential school and collaborative school and shall be updated  
10 periodically to meet the changing needs of students, parents or guardians and the school.

11 (b) The parental involvement policy shall establish expectations for parent involvement and  
12 describe how the school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and  
13 collaborative school will:

14 (i) involve parents or guardians in the activities of the school;

15 (ii) provide assistance to parents or guardians, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as  
16 state academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, state and local  
17 academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to  
18 improve the achievement of their child;

19 (iii) provide materials and training to help parents or guardians work with their child to  
20 improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and training on using technology, as  
21 appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

22 (iv) educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance  
23 of parents or guardians, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach  
24 out to and communicate and work with parents or guardians as partners, implement and  
25 coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents or guardians and the school;

26 (v) coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other  
27 community-based programs that encourage and support parents or guardians in more fully  
28 participating in the education of their child; and

29 (vi) conduct, with the involvement of parents or guardians, an annual evaluation of the  
30 content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality  
31 of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents or guardians in  
32 activities authorized by this section with particular attention to parents who are economically  
33 disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any  
34 racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies  
35 for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement  
36 policy.

37 (c) As a component of the parental involvement policy, each school district, charter school,  
38 approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall jointly develop with  
39 parents or guardians a school-parent compact that outlines how parents or guardians, the entire  
40 school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic  
41 achievement and the means by which the school and parents or guardians will build and develop  
42 a partnership to help children achieve. Such compact shall:

43 (i) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a  
44 supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the state's student  
45 academic achievement standards, and the ways in which each parent or guardian will be  
46 responsible for supporting their child's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework  
47 completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as  
48 appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of  
49 extracurricular time; and

50 (ii) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents or guardians on  
51 an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:

52 (A) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the  
53 compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;

54 (B) frequent reports to parents or guardians on their child's progress; and

55 (C) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class,  
56 and observation of classroom activities.

57 The department of elementary and secondary education shall: (i) publish a model compact for  
58 school districts and schools to consider when developing a school-parent compact; and (ii)  
59 compile a list of resources, programs, best practices and academic-based research on parental  
60 involvement that shall be made available to schools.