

Education Parity in 2008!

Opportunity for college education

This campaign proposes a solution that ensures that graduates of Massachusetts high schools are able to attend state colleges and universities at the same tuition rates as their peers. All students who have attended Massachusetts high schools for at least 3 years should be offered the same in-state tuition rates as their classmates.

Opportunity for educational success

Students affected by these current barriers to higher ed. are graduating at the top of their classes as a result of the investment in their K-12 education. **They are capable, talented, high achieving students who have and will continue to achieve academically.**

No cost to colleges or state

A solution would only address eligibility for tuition rates. It would not provide financial aid, scholarships or loans. Students would pay college tuition and fees out of pocket.

Revenue generating

MA Taxpayers Foundation says Education Parity would generate \$2.5 million in new revenue. Massachusetts public colleges will receive \$2.5 million dollars in new tuition payments from students who are currently not attending college because of the high cost of out of state rates. In the long term, Massachusetts will derive positive benefits from increased tax revenues and a greater number of educated workers.

Opportunity to educate more students

MA public universities and colleges have said that this act will not cause student displacement. It is estimated that the bill will affect only 400-600 students annually, less than 1% of the more than 40,000 students who attend college in the state.

Students seeking citizenship

In the House bill, Students must sign an affidavit stating that they have filed an application to become a legal permanent resident, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Education Parity would serve two different populations of immigrant students:

Legally residing immigrant students in the process of attaining their permanent residence: 36 immigration statutes allow students and their families to work and reside here legally. However, without permanent residence, or a "green card," they must pay out-of-state tuition rates.

Students whose parents brought them to the U.S. at a young age, and have since fallen out of legal status: Most students falling into this category have been here for most of their lives years and see Massachusetts as their only home. Under our current immigration laws, they have no opportunity to legalize their status. However with the passage of Comprehensive Immigration Reform or the DREAM Act, these students would be eligible to get in line for their citizenship.

Taxpayers of today, taxpayers of tomorrow

Immigrant students and their families work, pay taxes, and are an important part of our state's economy.

Immigrant students' families pay local, state and federal taxes with their social or with an individual tax identification number (ITIN) issued by the IRS. Immigrant labor is critical to the economic health of the Commonwealth. This legislation benefits our state's economy, as these students are able to develop new skills and advance their careers, allowing them to earn more and contribute more to the state in taxes.

Ten other states have passed similar legislation

New Mexico, Texas, Utah, California, New York, Illinois, Washington, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma have already passed similar legislation.

For more information on how we are currently advocating for Education Parity, please contact Diana at (617) 350-5480 x207 or at dbell@miracoalition.org

**Educational Parity Act Supporters
(partial list)**

Education

Massachusetts State College Presidents' Council
Massachusetts Community College Presidents Council
Massachusetts State College Association
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Urban Superintendents' Network
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Massachusetts Federation of Teachers
Boston Teachers Union
New England Association of College Admissions Counselors
MA Association of Teachers of Other Languages
MA American Association of University Women

Labor

Massachusetts AFL-CIO
MA Council of Service Employees International Union, SEIU
Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 35
New England Joint Board, UNITE HERE
Greater Boston Labor Council

Business

Steve Grossman, Mass Envelope Plus
Robert Beal, The Beal Companies
Thomas O'Neill III, O'Neill and Associates
Arnold Hiatt, President The Stride Rite Foundation
Mass Taxpayers Foundation

Government

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston
Cities of Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville

Religious

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM)
American Jewish Committee
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston
Brockton Interfaith Community
Reverend Dr Ray Hammond, Bethel AME Church
Sister Lena Deevy, Irish Immigration Center

Civic and Community

Neighbor to Neighbor
Anti-Defamation League
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center, Brockton
National Organization of Women (NOW), MA Chapter
National Association of Social Workers (NASW), MA Chapter
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)