

March 7, 2019

Chairman Aaron Michlewitz  
House Ways & Means Committee  
State House, Room 243

Chairman Michael J. Rodrigues  
Senate Ways & Means Committee  
State House, Room 109-D

**RE: Increase to Chapter 70 minimum per pupil increment**

Dear Chairman Michlewitz and Chairman Rodrigues,

We greatly appreciate your leadership and support in prioritizing education funding in the Commonwealth. As you work to formulate the FY20 state budget we respectfully request that the Chapter 70 minimum aid increment be set at \$100 per pupil.

Under our existing formula the majority of school districts across Massachusetts do not receive any increase in aid from year to year based solely on their Chapter 70 Foundation Budget allocation. Our districts instead rely on the minimum per pupil increment. In House 1, that minimum aid figure is set at \$20 per pupil, a reduction from the FY19 GAA.

Our school districts face rising expenses every year just to maintain level services. Most of these cost drivers, including energy and health care rates, instructional and contractual obligations, and testing mandates are beyond the control of local schools. Yet for the many districts that rely on the minimum aid formula, their Chapter 70 funding doesn't even keep pace with the rate of inflation.

Setting the minimum per pupil increment at \$100 will help ameliorate this underfunding problem and directly benefit 221 school districts across Massachusetts. The net cost would be a total of \$35.9M over H.1 levels.

Thank you for your support and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rep. Josh S. Cutler  
Sixth Plymouth District