

Race to the Top Coalition

INVESTING IN OUR STATE'S CHILDREN



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Coalition deeply disappointed in Senate result on school legislation

Boston – The Race to the Top Coalition, a diverse group of community, civic and education leaders dedicated to closing the achievement gap in Massachusetts and improving outcomes for every student in the Commonwealth, issued a statement after the rejection of a bill to expand quality school options in the Massachusetts Senate.

“We are deeply disappointed that the Massachusetts Senate could not recognize the critical opportunity we had to improve the quality of education for thousands of students by giving them access to high-quality charter schools and giving underperforming districts demonstrably effective tools to improve their schools,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation on behalf of the Coalition.

“We thank House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Joint Committee on Education Co-Chair Rep. Alice Peisch for their hard work, and we thank the House of Representatives, whose recognition of this important opportunity and overwhelming support for this bill made us hopeful that a similar result was possible in the Senate.

“This will surely not be the last time we visit this issue, and when we take it up again, we will look back on today as a moment where we failed to live up to our obligations to the children of Massachusetts and their families.”

The Race to the Top Coalition is a highly diverse group of business, community, civic and education leaders dedicated to closing the achievement gap in Massachusetts and improving outcomes for every student in the Commonwealth. Convened by the Boston Foundation in 2009, the Coalition played a major role in passing [*An Act Relevant to the Achievement Gap*](#), signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick in 2010. The legislation doubled the number of charter school seats in the state, established innovative in-district schools and provided superintendents with new intervention powers in underperforming districts. Now the Coalition is focused on passing, which will lift the cap on public charter schools in the lowest performing districts from 18% to 23% by 2022, empower superintendents and school personnel to make critical changes in many other underperforming schools and promote other crucial innovations that will help to close the achievement gap in Massachusetts.

The members of the Race to the Top Coalition include:

Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children, Inc.
Black Ministerial Alliance
Black Leaders for Excellence in Education
The Boston Foundation
Boston Charter School Alliance
Boston Higher Education Resource Center
Boston Leaders for Education
Boston Municipal Research Bureau
College Bound Dorchester
Education Pioneers
Education Reform Now Advocacy Committee
Ella J. Baker House
Freedom House
Massachusetts 2020
Massachusetts Charter Public School
Association
Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
MassInsight
Massachusetts High Technology Council
Mothers for Justice and Equality
New England Blacks in Philanthropy
NewSchools Venture Fund
Stand for Children
Strategic Grant Partners
Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts
Young Black Women's Society

