







Student Opportunity Act

September 2019



The General Court of Massachusetts

Student Opportunity Act

-  Makes an unprecedented \$1.5 billion investment in Massachusetts public education. Assuming inflation, over time the bill could provide an estimated \$2.2 billion.
-  Significantly helps school districts that serve high percentages of low-income students.
-  Increases state investment in other vital education aid programs such as transportation, school buildings and special education to assist districts across the state.
-  New investments are coupled with policy updates designed to monitor and measure progress, support effective approaches to closing opportunity gaps, and deliver results for all students.

Student Opportunity Act

Fully implements the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) by addressing:



1. Employee and retiree health insurance costs
2. Special education enrollment and cost assumptions
3. Funding for English learners
4. Funding for districts educating high concentrations of low-income students

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Provides additional state support to help public schools and communities meet their financial obligation of providing students with a high quality education by:

1. Increasing foundation rates for guidance and psychological services
2. Establishing a three-year timeline for fully funding charter tuition reimbursements
3. Expanding the special education circuit breaker to include out-of-district transportation
4. Lifting the annual cap on Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) spending on school building construction



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Implements policy updates to improve student outcomes and close opportunity gaps by:



1. Establishing the 21st Century Education Trust Fund
2. Supporting district improvement plans
3. Analyzing data reporting on student preparedness for post-graduate success in college and the workforce
4. Establishing Data Advisory Commission, as recommended by the FBRC

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Provides for further analysis of potential policy updates.



1. Review of required local contributions
2. Rural Schools Commission