



The Role of Regents & SED for Public Education

MCSBA supports the Regents in their work to improve the quality of the educational experience and to increase academic standards. Our constituent districts have high expectations for all students and recognize the importance of academic rigor as well as challenging students to reach their full potential as global citizens.

To that end MCSBA asks that the Board of Regents and the State Education Department partner with our districts by

Supporting Local Control of Professional Staff Evaluations	School districts have successfully used multiple measurements; including state and local tests, qualitative assessments, observations, and other effective evaluation methods to determine and advance the performance of teachers and principals . We therefore ask the Board of Regents to recommend and support the statutory repeal of the APPR component from education law and return local control of staff evaluations to school districts.
Supporting Models of Continuous Improvement	Promote continuous improvement in teaching by advocating for funding for professional development and evaluation of curriculum for effectiveness to maintain college and career readiness.
Supporting Professionalism	With the need for teachers in special areas increasing and the numbers entering the teaching profession decreasing, it is important to maintain and develop new pathways for educational professionals. SED should work with teacher programs to develop programs that allow for teacher certification reciprocity across states as well as for second career teachers.
Supporting Other Partnerships	MCSBA school districts have some of the highest achieving schools in our state. The strategies and successes of public school districts need to be shared across the state so that others can use these strategies where they can best be duplicated.
Supporting Mandate Relief	Develop a periodic review of the current mandates, especially around those identified as most burdensome and recommend revision or removal of these. For the numerous special education mandates, put together a comprehensive group of stakeholders, that include parents of students with disabilities that have graduated, to garner input.
Support a predictable, sustainable, equitable and adequate state aid formula	The Foundation aid formula needs to provide districts with the state aid that it was designed to originally to provide. With the tax cap limiting revenue, school districts are more reliant than ever on this critical aid.
Supporting Implementation of the New ESSA Plan once Approved	The Board of Regents and SED should continue to reach out to stakeholders to promote understanding of the new ESSA regulations and to make sure implementation occurs appropriately.

Improvement of education requires the collaborative efforts and mutual respect of school districts, professional organizations, the Board of Regents, the State Education Department and the State Legislature.