



CPS  
18 Tremont Street, Suite 320, Boston, MA 02108  
Phone: 617-227-3000  
Fax: 617-227-3453  
[lisa.guisbond@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.guisbond@gmail.com)  
[www.citizensforpublicschools.org](http://www.citizensforpublicschools.org)

## **Legislation for the 2017-2018 Session that we support:**

**SD.1486 - "An Act strengthening and investing in our educators, students and communities"** - Sponsored by Senator Mike Rush and 102 other legislators. SD.1486:

1. Updates the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70 Education Aid) formula based on the recommendations of the bi-partisan Foundation Budget Review Commission (2015). This overdue update of the formula, which dates to 1993, increases funding to help schools meet the needs of all students. Increases would take effect in 2019, after passage of the Fair Share Constitutional Amendment, which earmarks nearly \$2 billion in new revenues for public education and transportation.
2. Places a moratorium on the high stakes uses of state standardized tests, including rating teachers based on student performance. Standardized test overuse and misuse have hurt our most vulnerable students, focusing students on passing tests, rather than learning, educators on teaching to the test, rather than good teaching, and our schools on meeting state requirements that don't measure what parents and communities value in education. The bill provides a three-year pause on the high-stakes use of standardized tests, while a broad-based Commission examines how to design an accountability and assessment system that supports, rather than undermines, struggling schools.
3. Mandates daily recess for students K through 5th Grade, at least 20 minutes. Recess is one of many important programs that have been eliminated or reduced by over-testing.
4. Supports English Language Learners by giving school districts flexibility to provide English language programs that fit their students best, rather than being limited to the one-size-fits-all sheltered English Immersion program mandated by current law.

**HD.3426 - An Act clarifying parental rights in the administration of standardized tests.**

Sponsored by Rep. Liz Malia - Clarifies current law that parents have the right to opt their children out of certain testing requirements, and sets out protections to ensure that parents may exercise these important parental rights.

**SD.1905 - An Act modernizing the foundation budget for the 21st century**, filed by Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz - Similar language to SD.1486 (above) on updating the foundation budget.

**HD.3587 - An Act to place a moratorium on high stakes testing**, filed by Rep. Marjorie Decker. Similar language to SD.1486 (above) on a moratorium on high stakes testing.

**SD.206 - An Act relative to local approval for charter schools**, filed by Senator Michael Moore. Requires local approval for any new Commonwealth charter schools.

**HD.2760 - An Act to ensure charter school transparency and public accountability**, filed by Rep. Frank Smizik. Requires charters to comply with same laws as regular public schools.