

**Citizens for Public Schools**  
2017-2018 Accomplishments & Outlook

**In the past year, CPS has been a strong voice for students in Boston and state-wide:**

- CPS attended public hearings and spoke out:
  - For an inclusive and transparent BPS Superintendent search
  - For updating the Foundation Budget and supporting English Language learners
  - For a \$15 per hour minimum wage and Paid Family & Medical Leave
  - For a three-year moratorium on high-stakes testing
  - Against Innovation Partnership Zones
- CPS's Less Testing More Learning Campaign:
  - Created "Life Under MCAS" blog to collect stories of those impacted by MCAS.
  - Helped organize local communities to lobby for less testing policies
  - Created toolkits for local action
  - Led a workshop on Testing at the MEJA convening
  - Collaborated in a statewide campaign coalition
  - Created Opt-Out guides and assisted parents with opting their children out of MCAS.
  - Featured Professor Daniel Koretz, author of *The Testing Charade: Pretending to Make Schools Better* at our Annual Meeting; posted the video to our website and presented copies of his book to state education policymakers
- Successfully advocated with partners in MEJA for school funding:
  - Participated in the #FundOurSchools campaign
  - Advocated for state legislation to fix the foundation budget funding formula
  - The campaign really moved the needle and built a foundation for a political movement that will bring success in our campaign to fix the funding formula and provide the revenue to fund our schools.
- Maintained and strengthened CPS communications:
  - Kept members informed of policy news and actions through regular "News You can Uses" e-newsletter.
  - Strengthened CPS social media presence
  - Featured board member Alain Jehlen's *Schoolyard News* blog on our website and social media
  - Researched and identified new, cost-effective software tools to begin implementing for legislative actions and updating our CPS website.
- CPS part-time organizer strengthened relationships with donors and community leaders:
  - Collected & incorporated impact stories into successful annual appeal campaign.
  - Formed relationships with 11 community leaders
- Played a key role in developing the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance, a statewide coalition of labor and community groups working for equity and justice in public education.

**CPS identified these critical 2018-2019 strategic priorities to strengthen our advocacy.**

**As we carry on educational and campaign efforts, we intend to prioritize three key efforts:**

- **Create actionable and shareable content that leverages our deep historical knowledge**
  - Establish three Policy Circles led by board members & pro-bono policy experts: 1) Funding, 2) Less Testing, 3) Charters/Privatization
  - Develop fact sheets and materials to assist members with local and state actions.
- **Modernize our communications tools - scale our impact**
  - Continue to update website to improve the website's look/feel and usefulness
  - Implement action software that enables contacting legislators online.
- **Expand our membership & fundraising** - strengthen our reach and resources
  - Solidify & expand our funding base -- support our staffing & infrastructure
  - Develop and implement membership & development plans.