

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1083**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Martha M. Walz*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to parental involvement in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1083**

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1083) of Martha M. Walz and others relative to parental involvement in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to parental involvement in schools.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to increase parental involvement in schools , therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended by section 5 of chapter 92 of  
2 the Acts of 2010, is hereby further amended by inserting after section 37O the following  
3 section:-

4 Section 37P. (a) Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential  
5 school and collaborative school shall have a written parental involvement policy. Said policy  
6 shall be developed, and from time to time revised, in consultation with parents and guardians  
7 who have a child who attends the school. Parents or guardians shall be notified of the policy in  
8 an understandable format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can  
9 understand. Said policy shall be posted on the website of each school district, charter school,  
10 approved private day or residential school and collaborative school and shall be updated  
11 periodically to meet the changing needs of students, parents or guardians and the school.

12 (b) The parental involvement policy shall establish expectations for parent involvement  
13 and describe how the school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school  
14 and collaborative school will:

15 (i) involve parents or guardians in the activities of the school;

16 (ii) provide assistance to parents or guardians, as appropriate, in understanding such  
17 topics as state academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, state  
18 and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators  
19 to improve the achievement of their child;

20 (iii) provide materials and training to help parents or guardians work with their child  
21 to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and training on using technology,  
22 as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;

23 (iv) educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the  
24 assistance of parents or guardians, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how  
25 to reach out to and communicate and work with parents or guardians as partners, implement and  
26 coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents or guardians and the school;

27 (v) coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other  
28 community-based programs that encourage and support parents or guardians in more fully  
29 participating in the education of their child; and

30 (vi) conduct, with the involvement of parents or guardians, an annual evaluation of the  
31 content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality  
32 of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents or guardians in  
33 activities authorized by this section with particular attention to parents who are economically  
34 disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any  
35 racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies  
36 for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement  
37 policy.

38 (c) As a component of the parental involvement policy, each school district, charter  
39 school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall jointly develop  
40 with parents or guardians a school-parent compact that outlines how parents or guardians, the  
41 entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic  
42 achievement and the means by which the school and parents or guardians will build and develop  
43 a partnership to help children achieve. Such compact shall:

44 (i) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and  
45 instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the  
46 state's student academic achievement standards, and the ways in which each parent or guardian  
47 will be responsible for supporting their child's learning, such as monitoring attendance,  
48 homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and  
49 participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use  
50 of extracurricular time; and

51 (ii) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents or  
52 guardians on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:

53 (A) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which  
54 the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;

55 (B) frequent reports to parents or guardians on their child's progress; and

56 (C) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their  
57 child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

58 The department of elementary and secondary education shall: (i) publish a model  
59 compact for school districts and schools to consider when developing a school-parent compact;  
60 and (ii) compile a list of resources, programs, best practices and academic-based research on  
61 parental involvement that shall be made available to schools.