

HOUSE No. 1083

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to parental involvement in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/19/2011</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/4/2011</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

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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.