



**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

**MTA**

## **Member to Member: BUILDING UNION POWER FOR THE SCHOOLS OUR COMMUNITIES DESERVE**

*We are the largest member organization in the Commonwealth.*

*If we all stand strong together, we can transform education policy in Massachusetts.*

*We can have the public schools and colleges that educators and students deserve.*

It is time to access and build our strength, to revitalize locals and to connect across locals to maximize our collective power. We do this one conversation at a time — member to member — about what we love about education, about what holds us back from achieving our goals for education, and about how we can organize today to reclaim our classrooms and schools.

### **Why This? Why Now?**

Public education is under a direct and targeted assault from those who want to privatize the public good and bust our unions. Each day we face a growing threat — from the hyper-accountability of high-stakes testing and performance-based measurements to charters and austerity, from the tsunami of regulations taking the joy and creativity out of our preK-to-12 classrooms to the slow creep of privatization there and in our public colleges and universities. The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case brought by opponents of workers and organized labor that could eliminate the agency fees that are fairly charged to non-members for union-provided services.

More than ever, the collective voice of public educators needs to be heard. Our strength must be used to promote and protect the ideals that MTA members know are vital to helping students learn and succeed — the ideals that are vital to preserving public education, unions and democracy.

### **Building Union Power for the Schools and Colleges Our Communities Deserve**

Imagine what can be accomplished with members speaking to each other and acting together in our buildings and districts.

- **Workplace autonomy and respect:** Work in schools where educators have autonomy and respect — and where their voices are a significant part of professional decisions.
- **Strong contracts:** Negotiate the most favorable terms and ensure compliance.
- **The public trust:** Be recognized in the community as the voice of education and form strong partnerships with parents, student organizations and others.
- **Local support and advocacy:** See educators' concerns properly addressed and acted on by school committees, city councils, boards of selectmen and town meetings.
- **Statewide power:** Lead the movement to reclaim our schools by ending the high-stakes use of testing, keeping the cap on charter schools, increasing state funding for public schools and colleges, and preventing unfair evaluation systems and performance-based funding.
- **Election victories:** Hold our elected officials accountable and elect local, state and national candidates who truly support public education.
- **Equity for all:** Advocate for fair wages and working conditions for *all* educators, including education support professionals and adjunct faculty members.