

BILL OF *Rights*

The MTA's preK-12 Education Support Professionals play critically important roles in our public schools, providing individual and small-group instruction to students with disabilities, assisting in early education classes, supporting English learners, driving buses, preparing meals, keeping schools clean and performing myriad administrative and education support functions.

A Living Wage. All Education Support Professionals should be paid a living wage. No job should require more than seven years to reach the top step.

Affordable Health Insurance. No ESP should be receiving the dreaded “zero-dollar check” in order to afford health insurance premiums. All checks for ESPs must reflect *at least the state minimum wage* for hours worked. The district should make up any difference between the actual amount of the check after insurance has been taken out and what the ESP would have received at the state private-sector minimum wage.

Health and Safety. ESPs continue to be victims of physical, verbal and emotional abuse and bullying in the workplace. In order to provide a safer environment in our schools, ESPs need adequate supplies, fully staffed programs, clear protocols, employer-provided trainings on OSHA rules, and whistleblower protections.

Paid Family and Medical Leave. Just like all Massachusetts residents, ESPs deserve access to paid *Family and Medical Leave Act* benefits, as well as access to other FMLA protections, no matter how many hours a week they work.

Job Security. Too many ESPs do not know if they will have a job from one year to the next. School districts need to eliminate this insecurity and commit to the importance of ESPs. ESPs need automatic renewal language, a 90-day probation period, and strong just cause provisions.

Recognition as Educators. ESPs deserve a strong voice in their schools, resources to access training outside of the district, relevant and meaningful professional development opportunities, and a role on every employee committee in every district.

Affordable Education to Strengthen Careers. The vast majority of ESPs earn less than \$30,000 a year despite the fact that nearly 80 percent have college degrees. Many ESPs carry significant amounts of student debt or are helping family members pay off student debt. Many ESPs want more education but cannot afford to pay for it. ESPs deserve an affordable way of climbing the education career ladder — as well as a way of paying off career-related debt.

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Living Wage Calculator

Annual amounts were determined using the MIT Living Wage Calculator and are based on the living wage for a single person. The numbers represent absolutely the lowest wage that an ESP should be making and should be used to help develop starting rates in MTA contracts.

Source: livingwage.mit.edu

By County

County	Salary
Barnstable	\$28,434
Berkshire	\$26,354
Bristol	\$26,104
Dukes	\$30,035
Essex	\$34,278
Franklin	\$26,957
Hampden	\$24,648
Hampshire	\$24,648
Middlesex	\$35,568
Nantucket	\$31,720
Norfolk	\$36,754
Plymouth	\$32,926
Suffolk	\$37,045
Worcester	\$25,958

By City

City	Salary
Boston/ Cambridge/ Newton	\$34,819
Pittsfield	\$26,541
Springfield	\$24,648
Worcester	\$26,562

These are annual rates. To find your hourly rate, divide the annual rate by the number of school days a full-time ESP works, and then again by the number of hours a full-time ESP works.

Go to www.massteacher.org/esp or contact MTAESP@massteacher.org for more information.