

MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATION ACT OF 1993

School Districts Prior to 1993

- Teacher certification
- Statewide education standards
- Appointing educators
- District performance
- Charter Schools
- School Choice
- Statewide student testing
- Funding

Teacher Certification

- Life time certification
- No requirement to take courses or professional development
- Limited teacher preparation programs

Statewide Education Standards

- Only statewide education requirements were history and physical education
- No statewide curriculum frameworks
- No educational standards for students
- Local schools set graduation requirements

Appointing Educators

- School Committee appointed all school personnel
- Superintendents could only recommend
- Principals did not hire teachers

District Performance

- There was no criteria to determine if a district was performing at an acceptable level
- No performance standards

Charter Schools and School Choice

- Charter Schools as we know them today did not exist in Massachusetts
- School Choice did not exist

Statewide Student Testing

- Statewide testing was in place but there were no standards
- Educators did not know what was expected because there were no written curriculum
- Not graduation standards

Funding

- Schools received Chapter 70
- There was no formula for how much or little a district received from the State
- Wide discrepancies on educational funding from town to town
- Quality of education depended on where a child went to school

Educational Reform of 1993

- 1985 Act—didn't work
- McDuffy Case—disparity of school funding
- Mass Constitution --- Education Clause
 - Cherish.....public schools and grammar schools in towns
- Massachusetts Constitution imposed an enforceable duty on the Commonwealth to provide education in the public schools for children enrolled, whether they be rich or poor and without regard to the fiscal capacity of the community or district in which such child lives.

Education Reform Act 1993

- SJC held that the Commonwealth was not following the Education Clause
- Three days after they ruled, the Education Act of 1993 was signed by Gov. Weld

What changed?

- Teacher certification—Life time certification ended and must renew License after earning PDPs. Three levels of license and a licensure program is followed. Teachers need to pass prescribed tests in order to be licensed
- Statewide education standards—State Frameworks—Curriculum guides

What changed?

- Appointing educators
 - School Committees don't appoint all staff
 - Principals Hire
 - Superintends hire and approve hiring by principal
 - School Committees hire only the Superintendent
- District performance
 - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 - If district is a Level 5, DESE takes if over

What changed?

- Charter Schools
 - Established independent public schools operated under a 5 year charter granted by the BOE
- School Choice
 - School Systems/Districts are school choice unless they vote no
 - When a student leaves a district, up to \$5,000 is subtracted from their Chapter 70 and sent to the receiving school

What changed?

- Statewide student testing
 - MCAS
- Requirement to pass MCAS to graduate
 - Now have MCAS 2.0

What changed?

- Funding
 - Foundation Budget
 - Minimum Local contribution
 - Income of the inhabitants in the community
 - Value of the property in the community
- Foundation Aid
- Minimum Funding based on wealth of the community

Education Reform

- Since 1993 there have been additional laws and regulations passed
- Ed Reform of 1993 was land mark legislation that changed education in Massachusetts forever.