Dear State Senators,

If you raise the Charter Cap, it'll CLOSE GOOD Public Schools

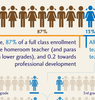
- Please vote **NO** on S2262 -

What? How??

In Boston, it's all about an average break-even point of

87%

of class enrollments.



On average, 87% of a full class enrollment pays for the homeroom teacher (and paras in lower grades), and 0.2 towards professional development

All other teaching/non-teaching staff

The other 13% from each class collectively pays for **ONE shared** teacher or non-teaching staff.

What does that have to do with the Charter Cap?

If you raise the Charter Cap, MA public schools will lose students to charters. So often, families leave because they are told they will get a better education in a charter, when in fact they may not.

So... if a public school loses just 6 students to a charter it has a

HUGE IMPACT.

6 students = a large portion of the salary of...

1 science teacher who teaches 300 kids in 4 grades

- or -

1 community field coordinator (CFC) responsible for discipline issues for the 6th-8th grades in a K-8

- or -

1 phys/ed teacher who teaches 400 kids in 5 grades

- or -

1 art teacher who teaches 250 kids in 3 grades

- or -

1 full-time math tutor who improves math grades for one whole school

- or -

1 school counselor who address the academic and emotional issues of all students in one whole school

- or -

1 full-time literacy coach who increases ELA literacy for one whole school.

If just 6 students leave a school for a charter = each remaining student loses the chance to learn about gravity, or play sports, or paint, or is more likely to be bullied.

THE RESULT IS A VICIOUS SPIRAL LOOP

What about Reimbursements?

~ The Theory ~

The theory is that the State reimburses tuition to local school districts for each student who leaves for a charter school

Year 1	100%
Year 2	25%
Year 3	25%
Year 4	25%
Year 5	25%
Year 6	25%

~ THE REALITY ~

1. The State refuses to reimburse local school districts for the full amount, so accelerating public school decline. Only 63% of funding will be given in FY15.

You cannot hire the same good teacher by paying them only 63% of their present salary.

2. "The Governor reimbursed school districts for FY13-14 in May 2014 through a supplemental budget" is an argument parents have heard.

Yes, he did. But we needed that money in June 2015 to stop positions being cuts in Septembee not 11 months latee

3. Even if fully reimbursed, the reimbursement system is only a stay of execution for one year.

Public schools will still have to carry the burden of losing shared positions, while still having to educate the tens of thousands of students who remain in those public schools, or come back from charters, incidentally in many cases, by choice.

So, public school parents ask you state senators to

PROTECT our PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Where is the information from?
The information is directly from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Budget Office. BPS parents have for many years spent their time meeting with BPS officials, trying to get more money for our schools. We have faced years upon years of budget cuts.

When three parents from the Curley K-8 School met with the Superintendent in February, he explained the 87% rule. We then spoke to Sam Tyler about the 87% concept after his own report was published. He may be reconsidering his findings on charter funding impacts...

A later meeting by parents from the Curley, BTU Pilot School, the JFK, and the Roger Clapp Innovation School with BPS officials led us to be given more specific break-even points by grade from K0-12th grade for all students in general education, SEI, ELL/Dual Language , and Special Education stands.

The BPS Budget Office is in the process of publishing a document with a thorough explanation of the process.

Who is the author of this piece?
The infographic above was created by a public school parent, a father to two daughters who currently attend the Curley K-8 school in Jamaica Plain, a BPS school.

They love it there. It's their second home. Please don't take that away from them.

The author is an unpaid parent who has never been to the State House before a few months ago. He is part of hundreds of other BPS parents from 35+ schools who have taken a second, third, fourth, even a fifth job this past few months, as budget analysts, public relations people, social media producers, legislative analysts, or as community organizers.

You have heard from scores of us, many far more eloquent than I, and we also all watch the live feeds from the State House.

Again, we are all unpaid. We are not "union stooges," and we know many MA public schools need fixing. But they are not all a disaster now, but will be if you raise the cap.

We also believe putting the fire out by burning down the house is not the solution.

I want to save my children's community, and protect the solid education my children ARE getting.

The charter proponents speak endlessly of the choices parents should have. We agree. As public school parents in the BPS, we have made ours.

Please respect OUR choice. Please respect OUR kids.

If you want to check my arguments, please contact me, Heshan Bennets-Weeramuni, at heshanbw@gmail.com. Thank you.

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