



## Leicester Public Schools

Office of the School Committee

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*Scott Francis, Chairman*  
*Tyler Keenan, Vice Chairman*  
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January 13, 2014

The Honorable Michael O. Moore  
Second Worcester District  
Massachusetts Senate  
State House Room 109-B  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Kate D. Campanale  
Seventeenth Worcester District  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Legislators,

We are writing to you today in support of the attached bill, currently entitled *An Act Relative to Educator Evaluations*. We respectfully request that you sponsor this bill in your respective chambers of the Massachusetts Legislature, and that you actively support and advocate for its passage.

In short, this bill would eliminate the requirement that local school districts report the results of teacher evaluations to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In the past, the results of these evaluations have been released to local media outlets, who then report to the public how proficient local teachers are. At best, this practice leads to gossip amongst local residents as to which teacher or teachers received low marks on their evaluation; a rather simple guessing game for districts as small as Leicester. At worst, principals are discouraged from providing honest feedback to teachers for fear of having their schools labeled as “needing improvement.”

According to the DESE, the purpose of collecting this data is to monitor the progress of the implementation of the new educator evaluation system, which was recently adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, we believe that this goal could easily be achieved without collecting the results of teacher evaluations. Additionally, it should be noted that while the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) is unable to offer a formal endorsement of the bill, due to the limited timeline and the process required to achieve formal support, the MTA’s director of policy has expressed that this is a bill that the organization would generally be supportive of.

This is a simple bill, and one that would require no funding. We sincerely hope that you will consider sponsoring this bill. The purpose of teacher evaluations was never to publically label school districts, but rather to provide teachers the feedback necessary to help them improve their instructional practices to better serve our students. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tyler Keenan, the school committee's legislative liaison, or Dr. Judith Paolucci, Leicester's superintendent of schools.

Sincerely,

The Leicester School Committee