



**Massachusetts Association
of School Committees**

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**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES
POSITION PAPER - 2014**

STUDENT MOBILITY AND THE IMPACT ON EDUCATION

(Addressing the McKinney-Vento Act and No Child Left Behind)

The issues surrounding students who, for a variety of reasons, move between and among school districts during the year present special challenges for school districts.

The task of orienting a new student to the school and gauging the student's academic strengths and weaknesses take valuable resources from the school system. School districts that have higher levels of mobile students find themselves stretched particularly thin trying to meet the needs of the mobile student population. This also has an impact on non-mobile students, as teacher time and resources are diverted to the mobile student population. While growth data on student achievement has been well received by all, it does not address as specifically as needed the long awaited focus of attention of the impact of student mobility.

Massachusetts school districts have researched and identified several implications and special needs for districts that will help them serve these students, many of whom are at high risk for underperformance.

MASC is pleased to present outstanding research and clear explanations of some of the challenges we face and a solid rationale for the Congress and the state legislatures to respond.

We believe the Congress can help by enacting and supporting the cost of provisions to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind) that:

- Directs state departments of education to track and report mobile student populations and account for the additional cost of education of the mobile student population by taking steps to fund these expenses.
- Creates a pilot program to provide financial assistance to high-mobility school districts.
- Directs state departments of education to track and report standardized test results for the mobile student population.

We are particularly grateful to our colleagues in Somerville and Chelsea, Massachusetts for taking the initiative on behalf of many Bay State school districts. Moreover, we are pleased that the Delegate Assembly of the National School Boards Association has agreed to champion this issue.

For further information contact:

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Attachment: Research Data on Student Mobility, reprinted with permission of Mary Bourque, Superintendent, Chelsea Public Schools