

Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



From Our Chairman

I'm proud to share with you MBAE's 2019 year-end report that highlights major accomplishments and the important role that we play in promoting improvements in education that align student's learning with the development of a diverse, skilled workforce for employers across Massachusetts.

2019 was another exceptional year for MBAE. Our new executive director, Ed Lambert, jumped right into the fire of a high-stakes debate over the most significant education legislation in Massachusetts in more than a decade. MBAE was an early and constant voice for the business community, leading the campaign for a bill that would effectively and efficiently allocate and account for an additional \$1.5 billion in new spending on our K-12 education system.

Our corporate, individual, and philanthropic funders, some funding us for the first time, recognized what was at stake for the business community, our students, and our state in the debate surrounding the Student Achievement Act. All recognized the critical need for MBAE's voice to be strong and sustainable throughout the process. Their support led to critical progress being made to address the needs of students who have been left behind by past reform efforts.

As MBAE starts the new year, we remain as engaged as we have ever been in our 30-year history. We look forward to working for you, with your support, to press for a high quality, relevant education for each and every student ensuring they are ready to join and contribute to our workforce, our economy and our communities, driving social and economic prosperity long into the future.

Bill Walczak
Chairman

“ ON THE ROLE MBAE PLAYED IN THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT

Governor Charlie Baker: "MBAE and the business community played an important role in the creation of the Student Opportunity Act by effectively advocating for workforce and training priorities throughout the legislative process. Thanks to their efforts, the education reform package includes important oversight measures in addition to new funds to help ensure more students are better prepared for college and careers."

**Representative Alice Peisch,
Co-Chair of the Joint Committee
on Education:** "I am thankful to have had the support of MBAE in ensuring that this legislation will address persistent gaps and require that districts change their practices should outcomes not improve. At the end of the day, the MBAE knew what mattered most: getting more resources to the students who need it most."



Ed Lambert Takes the Helm

In December, 2018, Linda Noonan stepped down from her role as MBAE's executive director after 13 years of relentlessly advocating for students and the pursuit of excellence in public education. Her leadership of MBAE will benefit Massachusetts students for many years to come.

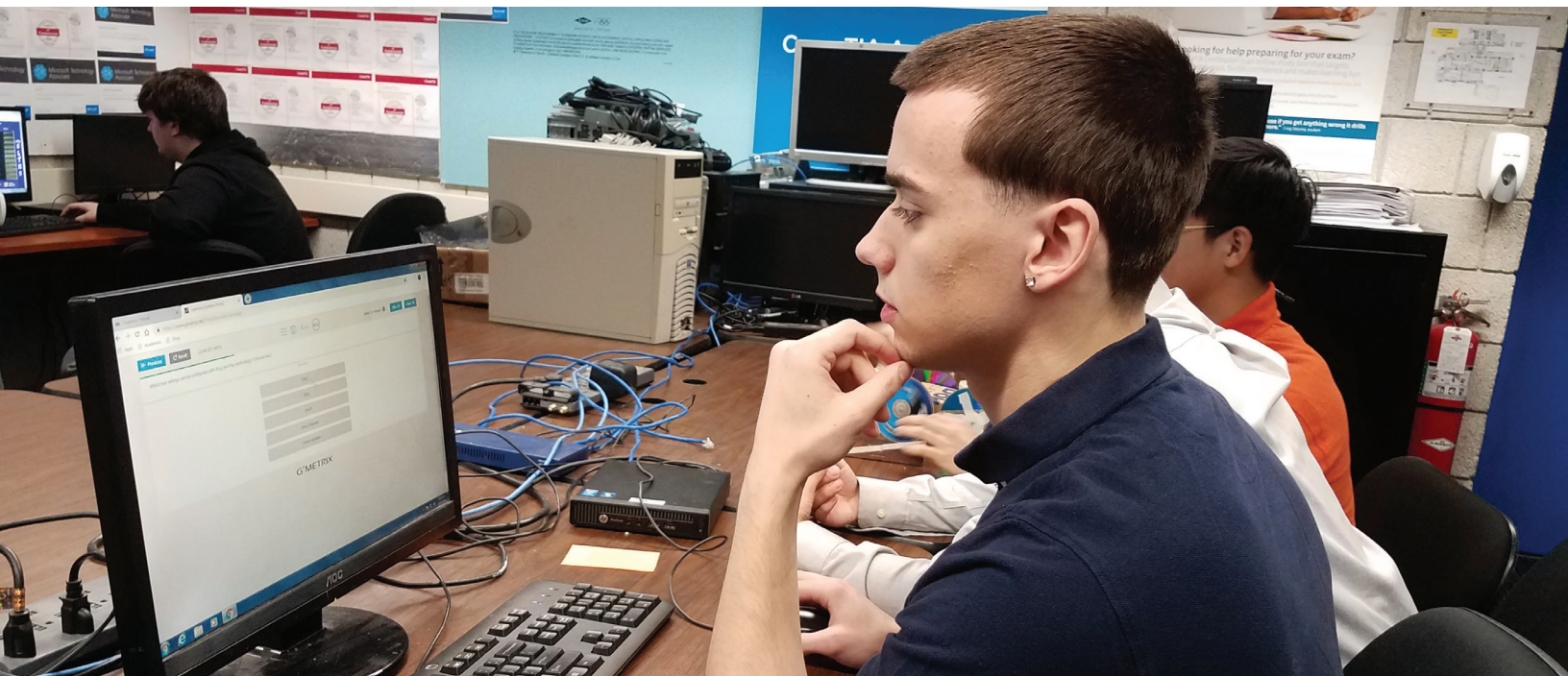
The MBAE Board chose Ed Lambert to succeed Linda. Ed's experience at the intersection of policy and education combined with his first-hand understanding of the challenges facing gateway cities made him the right leader at the right time for MBAE. Ed served as a state representative during passage of the Education Reform Act of 1993 and as Mayor of Fall River. Ed was also vice chancellor for government relations and public affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston bringing an important higher education perspective to MBAE's work.

Student Opportunity Act Reflects Business Priorities

MBAE was the leading business voice in the state's highest profile policy debate of 2019—school funding reform legislation. MBAE successfully countered widespread calls from the state's teachers' unions for dramatic increases in education spending with "no strings attached." With our own compelling and evidenced-based campaign, MBAE ensured appropriate "guardrails" were adopted to accompany the increased investment, ensuring effective and targeted use of the \$1.4 billion of new funding.

MBAE informed the debate with previously unseen evidence about school funding allocation and effectiveness; offered specific ideas about how legislation could ensure funds reach students who need them the most, with greater transparency on how the funds are spent by individual districts across the state; wrote legislative language that reflected those proposals; made a case for the need to intensify our focus on college and career readiness; and, brought the business community together to present a unified front on this issue and press for our collective agenda.

Fortunately, MBAE's efforts were successful. As a result of our work, the Student Opportunity Act's seven-year, \$1.4 billion increase in funding includes a new laser-like focus on closing racial and socio-economic achievement gaps and better preparing students for a successful life after high school. In the months to come, MBAE will closely monitor implementation of the law and bring the business community voice to bear on the planning processes that districts are now undertaking to achieve the improvement that is expected with the additional funding, and we will shine an even brighter light on the new college- and career-ready data that will be collected under the new law.



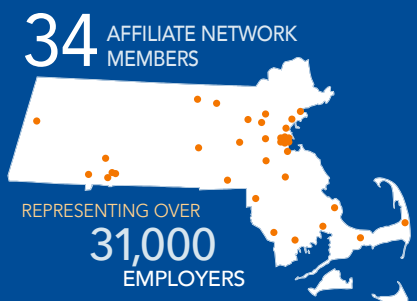


MEASURES MBAE CHAMPIONED IN THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT

- ✓ Setting of **statewide targets for closing achievement gaps** and annual reporting on progress
- ✓ **District targets for closing gaps** must be set and aligned with state targets
- ✓ Each district will create a **three-year plan for how to meet its targets** that includes **evidence-based practices** and outcomes metrics to measure success
- ✓ The Commissioner has the **authority to require changes to any district plan** that doesn't meet requirements in the legislation
- ✓ A Data Advisory Committee, on which MBAE has a seat, will be convened to **promote the improved use of state-, district- and school-level data** to inform effective resource allocation
- ✓ State and regional **targets for improving college and career readiness** will be set by the Secretary of Education and progress reported annually
- ✓ Data will be collected and made publicly available on **student preparedness for workforce and post-graduate success** by school district and high school
- ✓ A \$10 million Twenty-First Century Education Trust Fund will be created to **award to schools and districts to pilot or scale promising practices** including college and career readiness

31,000 Strong: MBAE Affiliate Network Continues to Grow; Unites and Takes Action

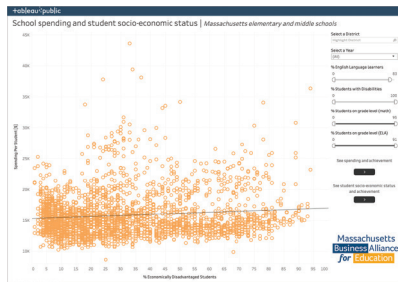
2019 marked a significant milestone for the MBAE Affiliate Network, exceeding 31,000 businesses represented through 34 affiliates coming together to establish a unified voice on major education legislation, including the Student Opportunity Act. With the guidance and assistance of our Affiliates, MBAE consistently and regularly communicates our position to influencers, legislators and the media. This year the Affiliates Network rose to the challenge, insisting the state prepare all students to seize the unique opportunities within the Commonwealth's economy through the implementation of the Student Opportunity Act. MBAE is buoyed by the enthusiastic response we received to our call for affiliate action and the business community coalescing around an education agenda that ultimately impacts our workforce. The growth we achieved in 2019 built an excellent foundation for the continuation of our work with affiliates at both the state and local level.



How are Your Schools Doing? MBAE Launches First-of-its-Kind School Funding Comparison Tool

In June, MBAE launched a first-of-its kind, searchable school-level spending tool that enables users to compare spending within and across districts, determine whether resources are allocated fairly, and examine the relationship between school spending and school outcomes. Organizations in other states are already replicating MBAE's efforts to shine light on this data.

Using the tool, MBAE conducted an analysis that found schools that serve similar student populations and spend the same amount per student can achieve



dramatically different student outcomes. The analysis also showed that, although the state allocates more money for high-need students, there are some districts where schools serving higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students are spending less per student than schools within the same district serving fewer disadvantaged students.

This data was instrumental in demonstrating to lawmakers the importance of adding language to the Student Opportunity Act that ensures money gets to the students it is intended to serve and that funding is used strategically to close achievement gaps.

MBAE Helps Springfield Business Leaders for Education Expand its Role

MBAE continued its more than decade-long partnership with the Springfield Business Leaders for Education (SBLE) helping facilitate SBLE's action in Springfield and statewide in support of expanding student opportunity by providing customized analyses of school finance and performance data that served as the basis for discussion and action. SBLE was a leader among business organizations in advocacy to pass the Student Opportunity Act. In Springfield, MBAE helped SBLE expand its role as a convener of important education conversations in Central Massachusetts, hosting a forum for Springfield leaders on education funding reform, and joining with parents to issue a Call to Action for the Springfield community about the urgency for improving outcomes for Springfield Public School students.

A LEADING VOICE

The
Boston
Globe

EDITORIAL

School spending is more about "how" than "how much"

“ But there's new research that raises doubts about the notion that more money to districts is all it takes to solve problems at chronically underperforming schools. A study of school-level data by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education looked at the relationship between how much money individual schools spend per student and how well their students do. First, it found that some districts didn't send funds to the highest-need schools; the state can't just assume that sending more money to districts with high poverty levels means the money will make it to the individual schools with high numbers of disadvantaged children.”

MBAE was a go-to voice throughout the debate ensuring the business community's position was heard early and often.



State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Ed Lambert of the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education.

THE DOWNLOAD

The Codcast: Widespread praise for ed funding bill

COMMONWEALTH STAFF Sep 23, 2019

When the year started, with Beacon Hill poised to make another go at a bill revamping the state's education funding formula, some advocates were focused on boosting funding for schools, while others were insisting that new money come with new ways of holding districts accountable for how it's spent and for closing the yawning achievement gaps that characterize the state's K-12 landscape.

Industry-Recognized Credential Bill Endorsed by 40 Legislators

Credentials
FOR Success

Led by Representative Jeffrey Roy, Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and House-Chair of the Manufacturing Caucus, forty legislators endorsed House Bill 567, MBAE legislation that will expand opportunities for high school students to earn industry-recognized credentials tied to labor market demand. The legislation would require the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to create an annual list of high need occupations that require an industry-recognized credential, ranked by employment value. Districts would get a financial award for each student that earns a credential that has high employment value, is recognized by higher education institutions, and meets regional workforce demands identified by the local MassHire Workforce Board. MBAE was joined by members of our Affiliate Network in testifying in support of the bill at an Education Committee hearing in 2019. We continue to work with Affiliates to make the case for passage of the bill.



Promoting Access and Equity in Computer Science

We continued to conduct Digital Equity Walks in 2019, interactive presentations to a range of stakeholders to raise awareness about the lack of access to computer science education, a course of study that has become foundational for future success, and gather insight about how to overcome barriers, particularly in low-income communities. The rich feedback we receive will form the basis of a roadmap to improve equity and prepare students for the opportunities our economy creates.



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AROUND MBAE



Nicholas Christ



MJ Ryan

MBAE elected two new members to our executive board. Please welcome **Nicholas Christ**, President and CEO of BayCoast Bank and **MJ Ryan**, Senior Director for Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity for Partners HealthCare.

Ryan Flynn, MBAE's Director of Affiliate Network Growth & Strategy, graduated from the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Business Leads Fellowship Program, in which he focused



on developing a plan to ensure our work has the greatest impact through Affiliates in Massachusetts communities.



Jackney Joseph, MBAE's Director of Career Readiness Initiatives, participates in The Boston Foundation's Importance of STEM panel, October 2019.

OUR AFFILIATES

MBAE Affiliates share our commitment to driving education improvements that will ensure all students get the education they need to be successful in college and career.

1Berkshire
 Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce
 Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
 Concord Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce
 Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
 Massachusetts High Technology Council
 Mass. Technology Leadership Council
 Massachusetts Society of CPAs
 Metro South Chamber of Commerce
 MetroWest Chamber of Commerce
 NAIOP Massachusetts
 Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce
 National Federation of Independent Business Massachusetts
 Neponset River Regional Chamber
 Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
 North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce
 One SouthCoast Chamber
 Orleans Chamber of Commerce
 Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce
 Quincy Chamber of Commerce
 Retailers Association of Massachusetts
 Salem Chamber of Commerce
 Springfield Business Leaders for Education
 Springfield Regional Chamber
 Stoneham Chamber of Commerce
 TechNet
 United Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Western Mass Economic Development Council
 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

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Thank you to the following organizations for their generous support.



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