

POLICY #5

Education Standards Revision

What if students had a say in what they learned?

Description:

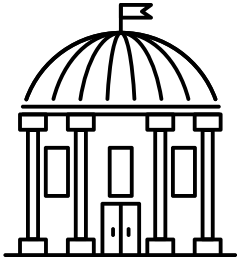
Education standards, which are set at the state level, describe what students learn in each of their classes and can restrict what teachers are able to teach. This proposal would ensure regular review of Massachusetts education standards with the input of students. Students would serve on the committee to review standards and processes would be put in place to ensure student input throughout the revision process.

Examples:

- Colorado reviews standards every six years and, by law, requires one student to be on the review committee. The law also requires students on local committees that select curriculum, which determines HOW students learn.
- Oregon students sit on the committee to review social studies standards.



Education Standards Revision (Continued)



Pros	Cons
Student power: A student vote would be equal to an adult vote on the revision committee.	Student power: Student votes are outnumbered approximately 10:1 on revision committees.
Inclusion: Students in every district would have a voice in choosing curriculum.	Inclusion: Only two students are involved at the state level.
Likelihood of passing: The revision committees are already in place, meaning we only need to add a student to them.	Likelihood of passing: Adding students to standards revision committees may not be a priority for state lawmakers.

If we chose Education Standards, we would want to make sure that:

- Students would be able to review standards through surveys and other methods of receiving community feedback.
- The process is accessible, students are aware of this process, and they are able to participate.
- There is training for students who serve on the committees so they are able to meaningfully participate with the adults.