



MASSACHUSETTS AGREES:

Defend Public Higher Ed Now

OUR CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE CUTS, FURLOUGHS AND LAYOFFS — AND TO PREPARE OUR CAMPUSES FOR A SAFE REOPENING — IS KICKING INTO HIGH GEAR!

Join us for next steps

Please [join us on Monday, Aug. 10, at 5:00 pm](#) for a mass meeting of all higher ed union members so we can chart out the coming weeks of action and advocacy to secure a safe, fully staffed fall semester — and use the moment to launch a renewed commitment to public higher education.



STATE BUDGET UPDATES

Members successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass a continued level-funded budget, which will stabilize higher ed funding through October. This means campus layoffs, furloughs and program cuts are UNNECESSARY — and we will hold our employers accountable for this. We are also calling on the legislature to [enact progressive revenue](#), and on Congress to pass the [HEROES Act](#). The current federal stimulus bill includes significant funding for higher ed.

IN THE PAST WEEK

- **Massachusetts Agrees** We launched [MassachusettsAgrees.org](#) with a powerful advertisement on TV and social media. The message calls our employers to task for not doing a better job ensuring health and safety and for not advocating on our behalf for equitable funding for community colleges, state universities, and UMass.
- **Higher Ed Hearing** We held a 800+ member hearing on Aug. 3, during which members from across the public higher education system, a student and a preK12 educator shared their testimony about the crisis we face. Here's a [recording of the hearing](#) . Add your voice: email Testimony@massteacher.org or [video](#) your testimony.
- **Higher Ed Demands Petition** Following the hearing, we sent UMass President Meehan and Higher Ed Commissioner Santiago 2,275 [petitions](#) signed by higher ed employees from 20 unions.
- **UMass Lowell Action** We've received coverage in the *Boston Herald*, *Boston Business Journal*, *Worcester Telegram*, and the *Lowell Sun* for our ["empty chairs/pink slips"](#) action.
- **Salem State Action** Letters from members are making the papers, including [this one](#) exposing Salem State's fake austerity. Be sure to check out the creative SSU guerilla theater action on their [facebook page](#).
- **Springfield Technical CC Action** Massachusetts Community College Council members are demanding a reversal of the closure of 7 programs and layoffs. Look at the attention [STCC members](#) are getting !

MTA locals also signed on to an [open letter](#) calling for safe reopening and transformation of Higher Ed, and published a paper on the economic benefits of investing in [public higher ed](#). Be sure to check www.massteacher.org for updated health and safety resources and MTA social media for the latest news and actions.



Massachusetts Teachers Association