



June 1, 2015

Dear Building Reps,

The school year is winding down, but we have two big actions coming up before the year ends!

From June 6-10, the Boston Teachers Union is joining the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance in a Week of Action, specifically around the Commonwealth Charter ballot initiative, that threatens to drain millions of dollars from our public schools. The campaign is called "Save Our Public Schools." Educators, parents, students and community members from across the state, including the AFT-MA and MTA, will be participating.

The Week of Action details are on the back of this letter. **Please post and share this your staff, and encourage members to participate.**

Additional stickers and materials are available at the BTU office, and also at [www.btu.org/SOPS](http://www.btu.org/SOPS)

Second, please remember that we are doing a "walk-in" in support of our current contract negotiations on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> as well. This is a major event for us and it will jump start our summer activities. All materials will be given out at the Wednesday, June 8 membership meeting. Please make sure that someone from your school stops by to pick up the materials!

If you have any questions or need support, please contact one of the members of the Organizing Team, a BRRL or BTU Staff member.

In Solidarity,

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## Week of Action June 6-10

### **GOAL: Connect Save Our Public Schools to local education issues and the November ballot question**

Participation in the Week of Action can take many forms. Some people might participate only through social media. Others might connect a local event (e.g., School Committee meeting, contract negotiations) to the campaign by holding signs and wearing SOPS stickers. Use your imagination and be creative. The goal is to make our presence known and identify activists by gathering commitment cards, which are available at [www.btu.org/SOPS](http://www.btu.org/SOPS) or at the BTU office.

#### **Day 1 — Fully Fund Public Schools**

**Monday, June 6**

BPS will be losing \$136 million to 26 Commonwealth Charter Schools next school year. Go [here](http://www.btu.org/SOPS) to find out how much other districts are losing and share that information on social media. Hold a sign describing unmet needs in BPS that could be addressed with funding lost to charters. The BTU has preprinted signs to download at <http://www.btu.org/SOPS>, or you can create your own!

*Ask: How much is your school or district getting cut? Highlight what you would do with that funding. Share it on social media! Tag @sopublicschools #schoolswedeserve #keepthecap*

#### **Day 2 — The Schools We Deserve**

**Tuesday, June 7**

Highlight success stories and your vision for excellent public schools for all. Contrast with the challenges facing parents and students in charter schools that use hyper discipline and teach to the test.

*Ask: Tell us what your public school does well and why the goal is excellent public schools for all. Share your story via a testimonial in written or video form. We can help get it out! Tag @sopublicschools #schoolswedeserve #keepthecap*

#### **Day 3 — Keep It Local**

**Wednesday, June 8**

Highlight the importance of keeping local control of education and the negative impact that lifting the cap would have on your community. Show up to School Committee at the Bolling Building at 6:00pm, after our membership meeting. Testify about the impact of charter growth and ask the Boston School Committee to consider passing a resolution to keep the cap on charters. Go [here](http://www.btu.org/SOPS) to see all of the Committees and Councils that have passed resolutions already

*Ask: Contact your School Committee: Say thank you or ask them to take action!*

#### **Day 4—Spread the Word!**

**Thursday, June 9**

Ask people to talk to 10 friends, family members or peers about the November ballot question to help us identify voters and sign up 10 new people to the Save Our Public Schools Campaign: [www.btu.org/SOPS](http://www.btu.org/SOPS). Completed hard copy forms should be given to one of the BTU organizers or dropped off at the BTU office!

*Ask: Talk to 10 people about keeping the cap on charter schools and sign them up for SOPS.*

#### **Day 5 — Stick to Public Schools (Sticker Day)**

**Friday, June 10**

Wear “Save Our Public Schools” stickers and/or hold signs to promote visibility. Take photos of members/community residents wearing the SOPS stickers and post/tweet pictures. Don’t forget to use #keepthecap and tag @SOPublicSchools.

*Ask: Wear a sticker, hold a sign, take a selfie. E-mail your photos to [saveourpublicschoolsma@gmail.com](mailto:saveourpublicschoolsma@gmail.com) or tweet/post them.*

*For more information please contact a member of the BTU Organizing Team: Jessica Tang, [jtang@btu.org](mailto:jtang@btu.org), Shanika [shoulder@btu.org](mailto:shoulder@btu.org) or Jonathan [jrodrigues@btu.org](mailto:jrodrigues@btu.org)*