

As part of this summer's work, MASC's staff undertook a full review of policy section D—fiscal policies. In undertaking this review, the following principles were prioritized:

1. Ensuring that policy language is aligned with the constitutional and legal principles of school funding: The funding of public schools in Massachusetts is created by Constitutional authority and guaranteed by Massachusetts General Law.
2. Confirming that policy remains focused on the legal authorities of the school committee: The interrelated responsibilities of the school committee in budget, policy, and goal setting all play a key role in policy section D.
3. Updating legal references: There have been several updates within legislation since the policy was last reviewed. This update incorporates those changes.
4. Clarifying process: There were a number of places in prior language that may have left process of committee work unclear. This update strives to make process easier to follow.
5. Incorporating best practices: Fiscal best practices from across the state have long been part of MASC's professional development for members. This update includes those best practices in policy language.
6. Clarifying regional policy distinctions: Previously, some fiscal policies had a separate (-1) designation, while in others, the needed changes were only in the footnotes. This creates a separate (-1) policy for regionals in any place where that is necessary.

We have included for your use a redlined track changes version of the policies as well as a clean version.

Please direct any questions on this to MASC Field Director Tracy Novick.