



# Fix Massachusetts Schools Now!

*For consideration by the delegates to the SEIU Local 888 Membership Convention on September 24, 2016*

- Whereas: The condition of school facilities is of significant concern for young families and our communities because a healthy learning environment reduces absenteeism, improves test scores and enhances student achievement: and
- Whereas: Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) studies show that 15.7% of Massachusetts schools received a rating of 3 or 4 (meaning that their site and building systems are in generally poor condition), with many building systems that may need attention.<sup>1</sup>
- Whereas: According to the MSBA, 267 schools received an overall building condition rating of 3 or 4, meaning that they may require a *moderate to extensive* renovation to address the physical deficiencies at those facilities.
- Whereas: Massachusetts schools require substantial and continuing financial commitment from the Commonwealth and municipalities towards building or renovating educational facility space.
- Whereas: Since 2000, MSBA study shows that more than 60% of school facility space needs to be built new or requires renovation.
- Whereas: Repairing school infrastructure benefits local economies by creating local construction jobs and increased purchasing of local products and services. On the other hand, tax cuts to the wealthy are a race to bottom which in the long run undermines the ability to invest in education and has a devastating impact on our economy.
- Whereas: Investing in school infrastructure, technological innovation and vocational education at public schools will create thriving communities attracting high wage employers resulting in a boost to our economy and generating even more in taxes by a better educated, more qualified workforce and helping to lift children out of poverty.

*Therefore be it resolved:* SEIU Local 888 urges increased funding for modernization, renovation, and repair of elementary and secondary school buildings in public school districts across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in order to create a more just society with the achievement of improved educational outcomes and by creating healthy air and water quality in those schools for generations to come; and

*Therefore be it further resolved:* That design and engineering recommendations for school renovations or modernization must be done in consultation with the engineering professionals and workers directly responsible for implementing those renovations or repairs; and

*Therefore be it further resolved:* That this resolution be forwarded to the mayors, town managers and school superintendents of every city and town where Local 888 has members.

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<sup>1</sup> All statistics are drawn from the "2010 Needs Survey Report," Massachusetts School Building Authority, [www.massschoolbuildings.org](http://www.massschoolbuildings.org)