

**CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

120 MERIAM ROAD CONCORD, MA 01742 PHONE: 978.318.1500 FAX: 978.318.1537 www.concordpublicschools.net

TO: Concord, Concord-Carlisle School Committees

FROM: Diana Rigby, Superintendent

DATE: March 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Vote on School Choice for the 2009-2010 School Year

Motion: That the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees vote not to participate in School Choice for the school year 2009-2010.

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TO: Concord, Concord-Carlisle School Committees
FROM: Diana Rigby, Superintendent
RE: School Choice

Chapter 76, Section 12B of the Massachusetts General Laws addresses Interdistrict School Choice. The law states that if a school district chooses to withdraw from the obligation of enrolling non-resident students, the school committee must, "prior to June first, after a public hearing, adopt(s) a resolution withdrawing from said obligation, for the school year beginning the following September. Any such resolution of a school committee shall state the reasons therefore, and such resolution with said reasons shall be filed with the department of education."¹

It is proposed that the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees vote, after the public hearing, on the issue of the districts' participation or non-participation in Interdistrict School Choice for the 2009-2010 school year.

It is my recommendation that the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees vote not to participate in the School Choice provisions of the State Law for the school year 2009-2010 for the following reasons:

1. The regional school district is in need of additional space at the high school to meet instructional and support needs due to a substantial increase in student enrollment over the past decade. Supporting school choice would add to enrollment challenges at this time.
2. There is not an equitable or adequate transportation system in place to allow *all* students to be able to attend a school in another district. Thus some students are denied the chance to participate.
3. Districts who have children leave to attend another school choice district are penalized financially because they have to pay some portion of the per pupil cost for those students. Districts losing students in this manner have fewer resources available to build up their own programs to retain or attract students.

¹ Chapter 76, Section 12B, p 76-10 Massachusetts General Laws