

Education Funding Ideas for MA

By Lisa Jeanne Graf

1. New Market Tax Credits

These have been used for Public Schools and there does not appear to be any restrictions to their being used for this purpose. This funding could help BPS build and repair school buildings in Boston.

2. Taxing Hedge Funds

A small tax could be created to just cover charter school reimbursement. If MA does it on a small scale other states would probably do the same because it would solve a school funding issue for them too.

3. A larger tax on Marijuana

MA has lower taxes than other states with legalized marijuana

4. A Millionaire's Tax

This tax would not be tied to education or transportation. Just presented as a new funding stream for any use in the State budget. This is a fair and popular direction. The main problem is that it will take a number of years for it to go into effect (if it is passed).

5. A tiny income tax increase for everyone

This would not require a change to the state constitution like the Millionaire's tax so it could go into place as a short term stop gap measure. Exemptions could be added to make the small tax more equitable as well.

6. A Tax on Airplane Fuel

Boston receives these funds. Perhaps this money could go to East Boston BPS schools.

7. Increase in the State Excise Tax

There could be a higher tax for more expensive personal vehicles and boats

8. A cap on overtime for government employees

This might mean that more government employees would need to be hired but that in itself would be a positive - allowing more residents to have jobs that pay decently. Any savings could be put into education budgets. This could be put in place by the state, and/or by individual cities.

9. The Boston school district could join with other school districts to create a legal challenge to overhaul the state's 25-year-old education funding formula

This approach could possibly make faster changes to education funding, than other approaches as it might make emergency measures possible.

10. Taxing College Endowments

11. **PILOT programs**

If some non-profit institutions do not pay their full share then there could be a reduction in city services. One example would be to not plow streets in the winter that are not critical for traffic flow that are around an institution. If the 25% paid is supposed to cover city services, then it makes sense to have less services for less taxes paid.

12. **Or Reform of the PILOT system**

Making tax payments mandatory in Boston would need to be changed in state law. With enough political will this could happen.

13. **An Airbnb Tax**

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2018/09/17/pass-airbnb-tax-already/oqgT86LWwSeGbIC1eelfZM/story.html>

14. **Reforms to METCO**

If METCO was more strategic about how towns are desegregated maybe similar results could happen with shorter bus rides. Could towns like Salem or Lynn bus students to Marblehead for instance? Savings could possibly pay for some busing in Boston to desegregate the city better. Also, families from the suburbs could be bused into under enrolled schools in Boston. In addition, it would be good if the system included the income of a family for future placements into the program.

15. **National Science Foundation**

BPS could apply for these Federal funds from the National Science Foundation for STEM programming. Currently these funds are not being used.

16. **More government buildings could display ads for increased revenue.**

17. **City aid would reflect the city's increased revenue**

The city is bringing in more revenue. Funding for BPS should increase, by minimum, by the same percentage that city funding has increased. More would start to address underfunding.

18. **A new capital-gains tax:** State tax capital gains — profits made from the sale of corporate stocks, bonds and other financial assets could be taxed.

I am interested in adding to this list. Please email lisa_jeanne_graf@msn.com with any additions or suggestions. Thanks