

Membership = Power

1. When you belong to your local association, you gain a voice in governing the union and shaping it to be more responsive to your community's needs.
2. When your local union has full membership, you have more power to bargain and enforce strong contracts. Collective action is our most powerful tool for achieving educational and economic justice in our schools and communities.
3. Having more members means more power. When we speak with one voice, the MTA has greater influence at the state level, where decisions and policies are made that affect our students and our active and retired preK-higher ed members.

Resist the Attacks on Public Education and Unions

1. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and Massachusetts Secretary of Education James Peyser are strong advocates for the privatization of public education. The right wing's agenda includes a broad expansion of charter schools, decreased public funding for state universities and colleges, and the use of publicly funded vouchers for private school tuition. We cannot allow the dismantling of public education, the bedrock upon which our democracy is built.
2. We defeated Question 2, but the fight is not over. The attempt to lift the cap on charter schools in Massachusetts revealed just how much money supporters of privatization are willing to pour into our state to achieve their goals and weaken the power of organized educators.
3. Local unions and the MTA use their power to reduce the impact of bureaucratic mandates on educator autonomy. Teachers must be heard when it comes to setting the course for public education, and unions give educators that necessary voice.
4. Together, through the union, we have a voice at every table where important decisions about our work and profession are made. When divided and unorganized, educators — just like any workers — cannot achieve the goals they want for their professional lives, and power rests entirely with administrators.

United, We All Benefit

1. By staying connected to each other and our communities, we create the kinds of classrooms we have always aspired to work in.
2. When we regularly meet and talk with each other, issues become identified and resolved much more quickly, and we prevent feelings of isolation.
3. As different as each educator is, all educators are committed to the success of their students. Being proud unionists not only gives us the means to share our stories and experiences, it also provides the power to achieve the goals we have for our communities, our students and ourselves.