

METCO LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, Inc.

METCO, Inc.

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METCO Legislative Alert #3 – 2015/16

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

TO: METCO Superintendents, METCO Directors and School Committee Members
From: Jean M. McGuire, Executive Director and John M. Shandorf, Associate Director
Cc: METCO Board Members, METCO Parents, METCO Staff, METCO Alumni, MPLC and supporters
Subject: **Governor Baker's FY17 Budget Level-Funds METCO Line Item – ACTION REQUESTED**

Governor Charlie Baker released his budget to the legislature. The METCO line item, 7010-0012, was funded at \$20,142,582, which reflects level-funding to the FY16 allocation. The Governor's actions are a direct testament to how vocal METCO supporters were following the 9C cuts!

Although level funding is good news, the program is still reeling from 9C cuts in the FY15 budget.

It is important that our voices are heard! We need to communicate that we are asking for the legislature to fund the program at \$23 million. This number was arrived at from the 2015/16 transportation shortfall of \$1.9 million plus a match of the 4% increase to Chapter 70, which is where METCO would be had our funding grown at the same rate as CH 70 since FY99, totaling \$20,948,285.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Contact both your Boston and METCO district legislators in the House and Senate and ask them to: "increase METCO funding to \$23 million as one of their top priorities in FY17 budget" and invite them to the METCO Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, February 25 from 10:00-11:30AM in the House Members Lounge.
2. Contact our Legislative Caucus Co-Chairs, Rep. Jay Kaufman and Senator Chang-Diaz and thank them for their continued leadership and advocacy of the METCO program.
3. Plan on being part of our METCO March for Equity (Lobby Day) on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. (See attached flyer)

You can find out who your Legislators are by logging on to www.wheredoivotema.com and entering your home address. If you are not registered to vote, please register today.

Please call Jean McGuire, Executive Director of METCO, Inc. at 617-427-1545 ext. 11 regarding the content of this legislative alert.