

# 2025-2026 Legislative Agenda



## **H.2125/S.1339 | *An Act to provide paid family and medical leave to all educators***

**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Vanna Howard (D-Lowell) | Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville)

Over 100,000 public school educators are not covered by the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave law, which covers most other employees in the Commonwealth.

Most of these educators are women, who in addition to not having this benefit, are paid less than their private-sector counterparts. Because of this, an unpaid leave is not financially viable for most, particularly for single-parent households.

The current PFML law gives school districts the option to adopt the law, but unfortunately, no district has done so to-date.

Exempting public school educators is unfair to them, their families and children who require care from their parent/guardian. Specifically, this legislation will:

- 
- Ensure that public school educators are eligible for up to 20 weeks of paid, job-protected leave to recover from serious illness, injury or pregnancy/childbirth, and up to 12 weeks to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, or to care for a newborn or adopted child
  - Allow public employees who utilize PFML to have that time count as creditable service toward a pension.
  - Make our schools healthier and more productive workplaces with less turnover, which will generate savings for the employer and the Commonwealth and improve the quality of our education system.
  - Mandate that the state pay the employer's share of the cost by using funds from the Fair Share Amendment.

Please contact MTA Government Relations if you have any questions or require any additional information.  
[governmentrelations@massteacher.org](mailto:governmentrelations@massteacher.org) | 617.878.8119