



# ALERT

THE VOICE OF  
ADULT EDUCATION  
IN MASSACHUSETTS

**Alert #3 - FY2013**

**February 26, 2013**

## **ALERT SUMMARY:**

- 1. PURVIEW: State (not federal)**
- 2. LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Adult learners**
- 3. WHO IS BEING CONTACTED: State representatives and state senators**
- 4. TIME LINE: Immediate, legislators are working on the FY2014 budget now!**

## **STATEWIDE ABE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN:**

Dear ABE Practitioner:

MCAE is rolling out a statewide postcard campaign for the FY2014 budget season. The post cards are a way for us to send a coordinated message to the State House, and it is a useful tool for introducing students to doing advocacy work.

**The postcard thanks legislators and asks them to support an allocation of \$35.17 million for the ABE line item 7035-0002.**

Teachers should give the postcards to their students now and ask students to send both of them as soon as possible: one to their state representative and one to their state senator. Below you will find instructions on how to participate.

Thanks for your participation!

Jennifer McAllister

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

1. Email Jennifer McAllister at [jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net) to request a postcard template. Copy postcard template on card stock and cut. You can also send on plain paper as a letter. This year there are two post card options, they both have the same message, but one provides more space for students to say why their classes are important to them.
2. Give your students 2 postcards to send to the State House in Boston. One card is for their state representative and one is for their state senator.

**NEXT MCAE  
PUBLIC POLICY  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**March 8, 2013**

10 a.m. to 12 noon  
UMass/Boston  
100 Morrissey Blvd Healey  
Library  
Media Conference Room  
Lower Level

via videoconference:  
Picknelly Education Center,  
Holyoke, MA  
contact [kdunkelberg@hcc.edu](mailto:kdunkelberg@hcc.edu)  
for exact room location

3. Explain to them where the money for classes comes from, and why it is important to send the postcards to legislators.

## **FINDING OUT WHO IS THE STUDENT'S STATE REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR:**

Go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com) to complete a simple address query screen.

## **IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:**

1. A student does not have to be a citizen or registered voter to send the postcard. Legislators represent everyone who lives in their district whether or not they are citizen. Everyone who lives in the district is a constituent.
2. Make sure students sign the card and write their full address on it. The postcards will only be effective if elected officials see that the student comes from their district.
3. Have 33-cent stamps available for students to buy. Do not use public funds to pay for the stamps. If you choose to use the larger postcard it will require a 46-cent stamp.
4. It is inappropriate to pressure any student to send a postcard. This campaign is voluntary and is designed to make it easier for students to contact their legislators. No one should feel forced to send a postcard.

## **REPORT BACK:**

As always, it is essential for MCAE to know how many postcards have been sent to each legislator. This information helps us to plan which legislators need to receive more contact from MCAE.

Report back after your students have mailed their postcards. Report by email to [jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net) and briefly let MCAE know:

1. How many postcards were mailed, totaled by individual legislator (state representatives, state senators).
2. Any problems you encountered and suggestions you may have.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer McAllister from MCAE with any questions or concerns at 617-482-6223.

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

- For questions on this alert contact Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com) or 617-367-1313), Steve Reuys ([steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu) or 617-287-4071), or Jennifer McAllister ([jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net) or 508-208-0130).

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS  
IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN!!**

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education | MCAE | 44 Farnsworth Street | Boston | MA | 02210