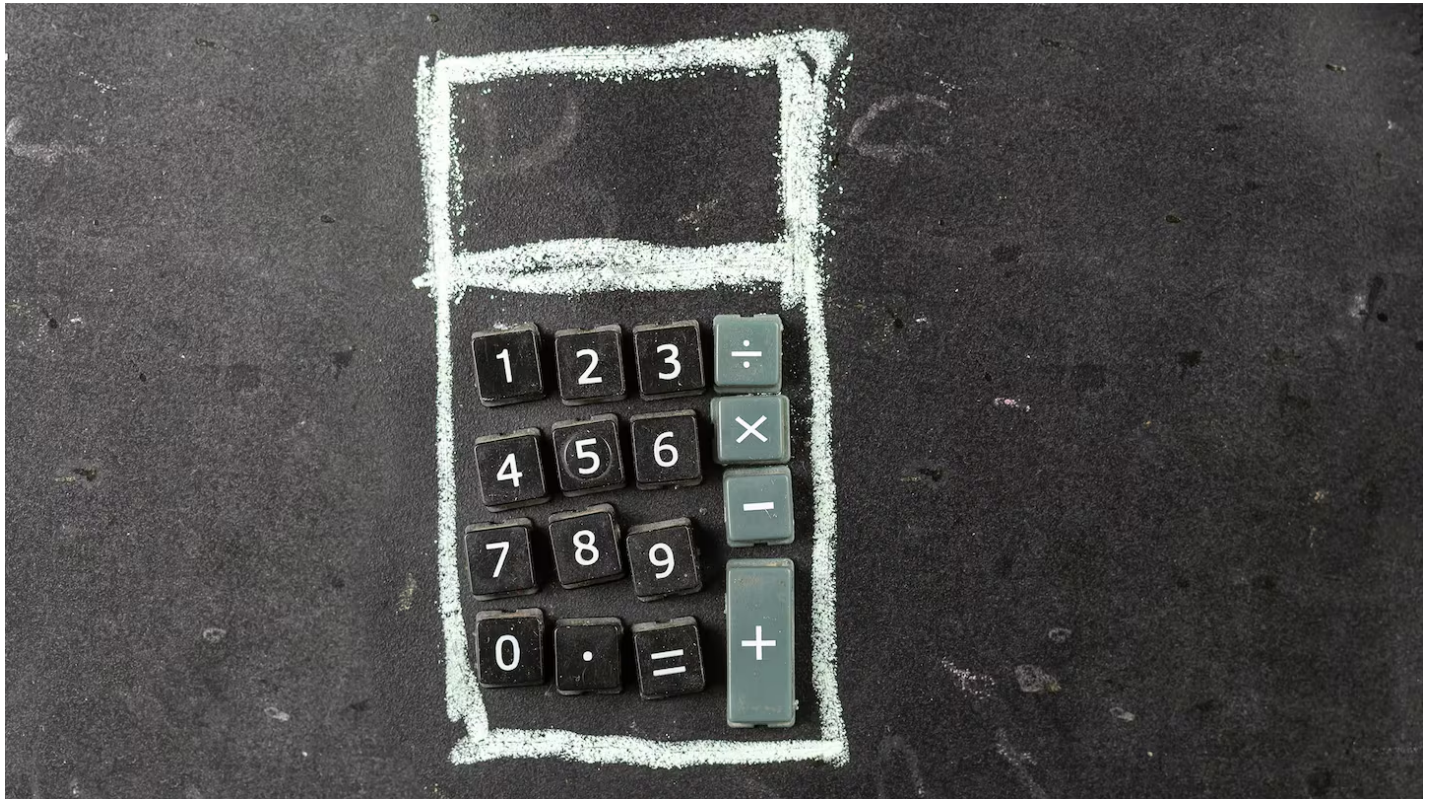


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LETTERS

Don't lay school cuts at the feet of teachers' contracts

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MIKHAIL/ADOBE

If the Methuen Public Schools [cut more than 100 positions](#), it won't be because of the teachers' contract (["Boston schools brace for layoffs: Teachers unions win pay hikes, but now districts face cuts,"](#) Page A1, May 26). A broken funding system for public

education is to blame. The Globe downplayed that point when looking at school districts announcing layoffs after negotiating fair pay and benefits for educators — a profession still [substantially underpaid in comparison with other jobs](#) requiring similar levels of education and training.

We have an unreliable and inadequate process for making sure that both communities and the state are fulfilling their budgetary obligations to invest in the education students in every community need to thrive. Competing costs, inflationary pressures, and fluctuations in federal funds cause additional havoc in setting school budgets.

But cutting teachers and paraprofessionals isn't the solution to budget crises, especially when the state has plenty of money. On the same day that the Globe reported on educator layoffs, it also had a story about the Fair Share Amendment outperforming expectations in tax revenues ([“Surtax on state's highest earners eclipses \\$3.1b,”](#) Metro), generating more than \$3 billion, some of which can be used for public education. The real question is why isn't that money getting to the districts that need it?

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