

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 437**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul W. Mark, (BY REQUEST)***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to student learning time at Mohawk Trail Regional School District.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Robert Aeschback*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Plainfield*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 437**

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By Mr. Mark of Peru (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 437) of Robert Aeschback relative to student learning time at Mohawk Trail Regional School District. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4330 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to student learning time at Mohawk Trail Regional School District.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. For purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following  
2 meanings:-

3           “Core subjects”, the core academic subjects specified in section 1D of chapter 69 of the  
4 General Laws and the subjects covered in courses which are part of an approved vocational-  
5 technical education program pursuant to chapter 74 of the General Laws.

6           “Optional school programs”, school activities that are not part of a course of study in  
7 either core subjects or other subjects, which are offered by a school district to enrich the  
8 educational experience of its students and meet educational goals set by the school committee,  
9 including but not limited to: activity clubs; driver education; extracurricular student performance

10 groups; non-academic assemblies; non-academic field trips; pep-rallies; sports and athletics;  
11 standardized testing other than statewide assessments conducted pursuant to sections 1D and 1I  
12 of chapter 69 of the General Laws; and student government.

13 “Other subjects”, subjects other than core academic subjects that are required to be taught  
14 pursuant to sections 1 and 3 of chapter 71 and other subjects approved by the school committee  
15 as part of a school district's program of studies.

16 “School services”, services which a school district provides to some or all students, either  
17 as a matter of state or federal law or regulation or local school district policy, to protect or  
18 improve student health and personal well-being, or enhance students' readiness and ability to  
19 learn, including but not limited to: special education diagnosis and evaluation; special education  
20 related services such as speech, physical and occupational therapy; and health screening and  
21 prevention services.

22 “Structured learning time”, time during which students are engaged in regularly  
23 scheduled instruction, learning activities or learning assessments within the curriculum for study  
24 of the core subjects and other subjects. In addition to classroom time where both teachers and  
25 students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study,  
26 technology-assisted learning, presentations by persons other than teachers, school to work  
27 programs and statewide student performance assessments. Time devoted to or allotted for school  
28 breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, homeroom, recess, non-directed study periods,  
29 school services and optional school programs shall not be considered structured learning time.

30 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 1G of chapter 69 of the General Laws or any other  
31 general or special law to the contrary, the school committee for the Mohawk Trail Regional

32 School District may operate the schools within its district for less than the minimum number of  
33 school days in a school year established by the board of elementary and secondary education  
34 pursuant to said section 1G of said chapter 69 and may implement a 4 day school week in its  
35 schools; provided, however, the school district shall ensure that every student in grades 7 to 12,  
36 inclusive, is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning  
37 time; provided further the school district shall ensure that every student in grades 1 to 6,  
38 inclusive, is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time.

39 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, the school  
40 committee for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District may establish a separate school year  
41 and school day schedule for kindergarten programs that it maintains pursuant to regulations  
42 promulgated by the board of elementary and secondary education.