

HOUSE No. 5177

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 5, 2026.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4207) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and Samantha Montañó relative to school library standards, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5177) ought to pass.

For the committee,

KENNETH I. GORDON.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to school library standards.

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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 1T the following new section:-

3 Section 1U. School Library Standards

4 As used in this section, (i) the term “school library standards” shall mean the most recent
5 edition of academic standards for school library media programs developed by the American
6 Association of School Librarians (AASL) and endorsed for the commonwealth by the
7 Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA); (ii) the term “effective school library
8 program” shall mean school library programs that are staffed by certified school librarians, offer
9 equitable access to a collection and other resources for all students, and that provide personalized
10 learning environments for students within instruction time and across the school day; (iii) the
11 term “schools” shall mean all public schools, charter schools, private day schools, residential
12 schools, and collaborative schools established and recognized under this Title.

13 Pursuant to the provisions of section 1D, the department shall adopt AASL and MSLA
14 school library standards that promote effective school library programs, including, but not
15 limited to: (a) a well-rounded grade-appropriate collection that supports the curriculum as well as
16 independent reading and inquiry; (b) the teaching of information literacy and research skills for
17 students in kindergarten to grade 12; (c) standards that further reading proficiency and
18 competencies for all students; and (d) standards that integrate learning technologies across the
19 curriculum. Pursuant to the provisions of section 1E, the commissioner shall guide school
20 committees or boards of trustees in implementation of standards and the development of
21 effective school library programs. School committees or board of trustees may incorporate the
22 school library standards into existing curricula including, but not limited to, English language
23 arts, history and social sciences, and technology.

24 SECTION 2. The department shall conduct a study relative to the implementation of the
25 school library standards established in Section 1 no later than December 31, 2029 and every third
26 year thereafter, subject to appropriation. The department shall submit a written report of its
27 findings from each study with the Clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the
28 Senate and House Chairs of the Joint Committee on Education no later than December 31, 2029
29 and on December 31 of every third year thereafter, subject to appropriation. Such reports shall
30 include, but not be limited to, a study of employment of school librarians and staff and the type
31 of school library programs being offered in schools to students and best practices and
32 recommended improvements to effective school library programs for all students.