

HOUSE No. 554

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carol A. Doherty and Ryan M. Hamilton

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 establishing comprehensive school counseling programs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 554

By Representatives Doherty of Taunton and Hamilton of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 554) of Carol A. Doherty and James K. Hawkins for legislation to establish school counseling programs. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing comprehensive school counseling programs.

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

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition is hereby
2 amended by inserting the following:-

3 “Each public school district shall develop and implement a comprehensive school
4 counseling program that adheres to the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School
5 Counseling Programs and ensures all pre-K to grade twelve (12) students will receive school
6 counseling services from licensed school counselors. In accordance with the Model, each school
7 counselor is to spend at least eighty percent (80%) of that school counselor’s time providing
8 direct or indirect services to students. To maintain equity in student access to a school counselor,
9 each district shall provide one (1) school counselor for a maximum of two hundred fifty (250)
10 students, the nationally recommended average.”