

HOUSE No. 585

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carmine Lawrence Gentile

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 resolve:

Resolve authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/15/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>8/28/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 585

By Representative Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 585) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile and James B. Eldridge for an investigation by a task force relative to the effect of school day start times for middle and secondary school students. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 486 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve authorizing a study of starting times and schedules.

1 **Resolved**, That the department of elementary and secondary education shall convene an
2 educational task force to review the effect of school day start times for middle school and
3 secondary school students. The task force shall consist of: the commissioner of elementary and
4 secondary education or a designee who shall serve as chair; the secretary of education or a
5 designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. or
6 a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents,
7 Inc. or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Secondary Schools
8 Administration Association, Inc. or a designee; the executive director of Start School Later, Inc.
9 or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Business
10 Officials, Inc. or a designee; a representative from the National Sleep Foundation; a parent of a
11 high school student who is a member of a school council, as defined in section 59C of chapter 71

12 of the General Laws; and a superintendent from a district which has implemented later school
13 day start times.

14 The task force shall: (i) conduct a comprehensive study, including a review of the
15 scientific findings relative to sleep needs of adolescents and the effect that middle school and
16 secondary school day start times have on the health and academic performance of students; (ii)
17 determine the number of districts in the commonwealth that have implemented later school day
18 start times for middle schools and secondary schools and examine the academic performance of
19 students, including performance on statewide tests; and (iii) identify resources and opportunities
20 to assist districts in implementing later school day start times for middle schools and secondary
21 schools, should the task force's findings under clauses (i) and (ii) suggest that a later school day
22 start time is beneficial to student learning.

23 The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including
24 legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the senate and house of
25 representatives by July 1, 2026.