

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 to establish a community schools special legislative commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to establish a community schools special legislative commission.

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 XX

2 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires
3 otherwise, have the following meanings:

4 (i) “Community School”, a public school that utilizes a community school coordinator to
5 facilitate the establishment of a set of strategic partnerships between the school and other
6 community resources that leverage shared accountability, collaborative leadership, capacity
7 building, and family and community engagement, to promote student achievement, and the well-
8 being of students, families, educators, and neighborhood residents through a variety of engaging
9 practices including the provision of wraparound services.

10 (ii) “Community Schools strategy”, a strategy that transforms a school into a community
11 school where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to
12 establish shared vision and goals to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy

13 development, including but not limited to the organization of in- and out-of-school resources,
14 supports, and student opportunities.

15 (b) There shall be a special legislative commission on community schools, hereinafter
16 referred to as the commission, to investigate community schools and to make recommendations
17 regarding the adoption of community schools across the commonwealth. The special legislative
18 commission shall consist of 15 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
19 education, or their designee, who shall serve as co-chairs; the secretary of Education or a
20 designee; the secretary of Health and Human services or a designee; 1 representative from the
21 Massachusetts Community Schools Coalition; 1 representative from the American Federation of
22 Teachers Massachusetts; 1 representative from Massachusetts Teachers Association; 1
23 representative from United Way of Massachusetts Bay; and 7 members to be appointed by the
24 Governor: 2 of whom shall be student representatives from existing Massachusetts community
25 schools, 1

26 of whom shall be a parent representative from an existing Massachusetts community
27 schools, 1

28 of whom shall be a superintendent from a Massachusetts district employing community
29 school strategies, 1 of whom shall be a principal of a Massachusetts community school, 1 of
30 whom shall be a Massachusetts community school coordinator, and 1 of whom shall be a
31 member who represents a community based organization. In making such appointments, the
32 Governor shall consider rural, urban, and suburban geographic representation across the
33 commission.

34 (c) The commission shall: (i) analyze systems, structures, and policies that support
35 successful community school implementation models and trends in community school model
36 adoption across different jurisdictions in the Commonwealth and nationwide; (ii) investigate the
37 policies of other such jurisdictions intended to support and incentivize community school model
38 adoption, (iii) provide an assessment of community school adoption, implementation, and
39 outcomes in Massachusetts; (iv) define the essential elements and principles of implementing
40 community school models, including but not limited to as an equity strategy; (v) research the
41 outcomes and evidence associated with community schools model adoption, including but not
42 limited to reductions in school absenteeism; (vi) investigate the policies of other jurisdictions
43 intended to support and incentivize community school adoption; (vii) identify any existing
44 barriers, including but not limited to legal, regulatory, information and training, or funding
45 barriers for Massachusetts schools to successfully adopt and implement community school
46 strategies. The commission shall meet not less than once every two months.

47 (d) The commission shall develop a report of its findings and include specific
48 recommendations in response to such findings, including any legislative or regulatory changes
49 necessary for the Commonwealth to implement the commission's recommendations. At a
50 minimum, such report shall include: (i) an overview of the findings of the commission's work
51 pursuant to subsection (b), including but not limited to policy recommendations relative to
52 codifying definitions relative to community schools; adopting policies and funding strategies to
53 incentivize statewide adoption of community school strategies; and, creating sustainable funding
54 streams in support of local district and school-level adoption and implementation of community
55 school strategies; (ii) recommendations for a statewide community school pilot program
56 including, but not limited to: (1) the number and nature of eligible communities to participate in

57 the pilot program, (2) the resources necessary to support the pilot program, (3) the process by
58 which pilot funding should be awarded, and (4) the data and outcomes reporting requirements
59 and criteria for the evaluation of the pilot program and its participants. The commission shall file
60 its report with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the senate and house
61 committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, the office of the governor, and
62 the executive office of education not later than February 15, 2026.