SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2121 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 441

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Rebecca L. Rausch	*Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 441

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 441) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *346* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 schools.

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

Section 1P of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following subsection:-

(h) The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide school mental health professionals at a ratio of at least 1 per 250 students, with a minimum of 1 school mental health professional at each elementary and each secondary school in the commonwealth. Consistent with applicable scopes of practice, school mental health professionals may, without limitation, provide mental health services to students; offer training and resources to school faculty and administrators; provide the school with culturally competent and linguistically diverse resources to develop and improve the social and emotional health of students; provide direct social and emotional skill building; assist students and their families with applying for and

11 obtaining necessary public benefits for which each student and the student's family is eligible;
12 provide services and supports to students who have an individualized education program; consult
13 and coordinate with other school professionals on behalf of students and support families
14 accessing community-based resources as needed and appropriate; and identify food insecurity,
15 homelessness, and other issues affecting students and make referrals to services with the
16 community, bringing those services into the school where possible. For purposes of this
17 paragraph, the term "school mental health professional" shall mean a school counselor, school
18 psychologist, or school social worker.