

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

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 relative to school library standards.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jacob R. Oliveira

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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” means 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” means school library programs that are staffed by certified school librarians, offer
9 equitable access to a collection and other resources for all students, and provides personalized
10 learning environments for students within

11 instruction time and across the school day; (iii) the term “schools” means all public
12 schools, charter schools, private day schools, residential schools, and collaborative schools
13 established and recognized under this Title.

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

25 The department shall require a study by the department relative to the implementation of
26 the school library standards beginning in the third year after the enactment of said standards.
27 Subject to appropriation, the department shall conduct a study in each third year following the
28 initial study, including a study of employment of school librarians and staff and the type of
29 school library programs being offered in schools to students. The study shall include a report to
30 the public via department communication platforms on best practices and recommended
31 improvements to effective school library programs for all students.