



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

## Joint Committee on Education

Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon  
House Chair

Sen. Jason M. Lewis  
Senate Chair

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**Date of Hearing:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**Time:** 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Location:** Gardner Auditorium

Governance, Assessments, and Accountability

The Joint Committee on Education will hold a hybrid public hearing to solicit written and oral testimony in-person and remotely on the following bills that pertain to Governance, Assessments, and Accountability.

To register to testify virtually, you must provide contact information on the form linked [here](#). Individuals who wish to testify virtually at the Joint Committee on Education upcoming hearing must register by completing this form before **1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10th, 2025**.

**Registration will CLOSE at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10th.** Those wishing to testify in person may register in person at the time of the hearing but are encouraged to register ahead of time using this form. The Chair will limit testimony to two minutes per individual and reserves the right to call public officials out of turn.

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

Please submit written testimony to Fiona Bruce-Baiden at [jointcommittee.education@malegislature.gov](mailto:jointcommittee.education@malegislature.gov) and Elizabeth Noonan at [elizabeth.noonan@masenate.gov](mailto:elizabeth.noonan@masenate.gov) or to the Committee on Education at 24 Beacon Street, Room 473G, Boston, MA 02133. The Chairs request that those submitting written testimony include "EDUCATION COMMITTEE TESTIMONY" and the bill number IN THE SUBJECT LINE, and provide the committee with your name, organization, and phone number. **The Committee will accept written testimony until November 19, 2025.**

You may contact committee staff at (617) 722-2070 or (617) 722-1206 or email [fiona.brucebaiden@mahous.gov](mailto:fiona.brucebaiden@mahous.gov) and [elizabeth.noonan@mahouse.gov](mailto:elizabeth.noonan@mahouse.gov)

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H527	Cahill, Daniel (HOU)	An Act developing a Portrait of a Graduate
S431	Oliveira, Jacob R. (SEN)	An Act developing a Portrait of a Graduate
S398	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	An Act to promote student college and career success and civic engagement
S379	Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN)	An Act relative to student assessment data
H525	Cabral, Antonio F. D. (HOU)	An Act related to high school graduation
S374	Gómez, Adam (SEN)	An Act empowering students and schools to thrive
S367	Gómez, Adam (SEN)	An Act relative to student representative relative to student representative voting rights
H568	Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (HOU)	An Act relative to student representative voting rights
H734	Vargas, Andres X.	An Act fulfilling the promise of education reform
S343	DiDomenico, Sal N. (SEN)	An Act fulfilling the promise of education reform
H660	Pease, Kelly W. (HOU)	An Act concerning equitable state summative assessments of students
H659	Pease, Kelly W. (HOU)	An Act relative to equity and inclusion in education
H738	Vaughn, Marcus S. (HOU)	An Act relative to civic test requirements for graduation
H612	Jones, Jr., Bradley H. (HOU)	An Act relative to an educational unfunded mandate task force
H617	Kane, Hannah (HOU)	An Act establishing an educational mandate task force
H729	Ultrino, Steven (HOU)	An Act relative to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
S443	Rausch, Rebecca L. (SEN)	An Act modernizing the board of elementary and secondary education
S377	Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN)	An Act relative to the board of elementary and secondary education

H726	Tyler, Chynah (HOU)	An Act to establish a community schools special legislative commission
S409	Mark, Paul W. (SEN)	An Act to establish a community schools special legislative commission
S50	Payano, Pavel (SEN)	An Act establishing a career-to-education data center
H694	Scanlon, Adam J. (HOU)	An Act to preserve local control of Chapter 74 admissions policies
H614	Jones, Jr., Bradley H. (HOU)	An Act relative to issuing guidance regarding setting policies for the use of AI in schools
S429	Oliveira, Jacob R. (SEN)	An Act to establish a commission to investigate AI in education
H582	Galvin, William C. (HOU)	An Act relative to school committee oversight
H693	Scanlon, Adam J. (HOU)	An Act ensuring student representation, Aidan's law
S356	Feeney, Paul R. (SEN)	An Act ensuring student representation, Aidan's Law
H535	Cruz, Manny (HOU)	An Act relative to student voice
H552	DeCoste, David F. (HOU)	An Act parental rights legislation
H537	Cruz, Manny (HOU)	An Act relative to school site councils and the district parent advisory council
H504	Arciero, James (HOU)	An Act to ensure equitable representation of required parent advisory councils to school committees
H3980	Gentile, Carmine Lawrence (HOU)	An Act establishing LGBTQIA+ parent advisory councils in the Commonwealth
H3941	Sullivan-Almeida, Alyson M. (HOU)	An Act relative to the department of elementary and secondary education visiting school districts
S457	Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)	An Act to establish the Middle School Innovation Fund
H4207	Puppolo, Angelo (HOU)	An Act relative to school library standards
S428	Oliveira, Jacob R. (SEN)	An Act relative to school library standards

S346	DiDomenico, Sal N. (SEN)	Resolve establishing a commission to study the funding of high-quality early education and care in Massachusetts
H4038	Barrett, III, John (HOU)	An Act relative to school transportation reimbursement
H4059	McMurtry, Paul (HOU)	An Act relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in schools

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2070 or (617) 722-1206.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 527 / Senate, No. 431

**TITLE**

An Act developing a Portrait of a Graduate

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Daniel Cahill – 10<sup>th</sup> Essex  
Senator Jacob Oliveira - Hampden, Hampshire  
and Worcester District

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in partnership with school districts, experts in social and emotional learning in school settings, along with others from related fields, to develop a statewide "Portrait of a Graduate" criteria which identifies seven competencies that schools will support students to develop upon graduation from high school to help them thrive in the 21st century and develop a state-wide resource for schools across the Commonwealth. The 7 competencies may include character traits like (1) Self-Awareness, (2) Adaptability, (3) Empathy, (4) Collaboration, (5) Agency, (6) Purpose, and (7) Responsible Decision-making.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 527

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Daniel Cahill***

---

*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 developing a Portrait of a Graduate.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/13/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 527

By Representative Cahill of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 527) of Daniel Cahill and Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation to authorize the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to identify competencies that schools will support students to develop upon graduation from high school. Education.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act developing a Portrait of a Graduate.

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

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with school districts, experts in social and emotional learning in school settings, the Massachusetts Association of School Psychologists, Wayfinder Inc., workforce development agencies and others, shall develop a statewide "Portrait of a Graduate" which identifies seven competencies that schools will support students to develop upon graduation from high school to help them thrive in the 21st century and develop a state-wide resource for schools across the Commonwealth. The 7 competencies may include character traits like (1) Self-Awareness, (2) Adaptability, (3) Empathy, (4) Collaboration, (5) Agency, (6) Purpose, and (7) Responsible Decision-making.

# SENATE . . . . . No. 431

---

## 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 developing a Portrait of a Graduate.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Jacob R. Oliveira*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester*



# SENATE . . . . . No. 431

---

By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 431) of Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation to develop a statewide program which identifies seven competencies that schools will support students to develop upon graduation from high school. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act developing a Portrait of a Graduate.

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

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with school districts, experts in social and emotional learning in school settings, the Massachusetts Association of School Psychologists, Wayfinder Inc., workforce development agencies and others, may develop a statewide "Portrait of a Graduate" which identifies seven competencies that schools will support students to develop upon graduation from high school to help them thrive in the 21st century and develop a state-wide resource for schools across the Commonwealth. The 7 competencies may include character traits like (1) Self-Awareness, (2) Adaptability, (3) Empathy, (4) Collaboration, (5) Agency, (6) Purpose, and (7) Responsible Decision-making.



**Joint Committee on Education  
Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 525

**TITLE**

An Act related to high school graduation

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Antonio Cabral – 13<sup>th</sup> Bristol

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 69:1D:(i) pertains to the definition of “competency determination” within Statewide educational goals; academic standards; vocational training; grant program

**SUMMARY**

This bill would amend subsection (i) of MGL 69:1D by adding that students who have demonstrated competency under this section by meeting the academic standards and curriculum frameworks by satisfying the requirements of their local school committee, will be granted a high school diploma issued by the local school committee. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System is not a graduation requirement. Students who have demonstrated competency under this section by passing the state’s assessment tests, including the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, and any succeeding statewide assessment test, may be granted a certificate issued by the department of elementary and secondary education (DESE), acknowledging the passing of such assessment tests.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 525

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Antonio F. D. Cabral*

*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 related to high school graduation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 525

---

By Representative Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 525) of Antonio F. D. Cabral relative to competency determination and high school diplomas. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 438 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act related to high school graduation.

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

Subsection (i) of section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence, in line 64, the following sentences: -

Students who have demonstrated competency under this section by meeting the academic standards and curriculum frameworks enumerated in this section by satisfying the requirements of their local school committee shall be granted a High School Diploma issued by the local school committee. Issuance of the diploma will certify that a student has met the competency determination described in this section and will entitle a student to all the rights and privileges of high school graduation. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System is not a graduation requirement. Students who have demonstrated competency under this section by

passing the state's assessment tests, including the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, and any successors thereto, may be granted a certificate issued by the department of elementary and secondary education, acknowledging the passing of such assessment tests.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 568 Senate, No. 367
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	H.568 An Act relative to student representative voting rights H.367 An Act relative to student representative relative to student representative voting rights
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Berkshire Senator Adam Gomez (Hampden)

<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H. 474 and S.284 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted as S.2661, SWM.
-----------------------------	--

<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 71:38M pertains to student advisory committees
---------------------------	--

**SUMMARY**

The bill strikes out lines 9-14 of MGL 71:38M and replaces them.

The bill requires that the student representative on school committees become voting members, currently student representatives are nonvoting members of school committees. The bill requires school committees to recognize 2 student representatives; the committee must allow the representatives to vote in all matters of the committee. The bill also requires student advisory committees' size to be determined by the district.

SENATE . . . . . No. 367

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENTED BY:  
*Adam Gómez*  
\_\_\_\_\_

*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 student representative relative to student representative voting rights.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam Gómez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2025</i>



# SENATE . . . . . No. 367

---

By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 367) of Adam Gomez and Mark C. Montigny for legislation relative to student representative voting rights. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 287 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to student representative relative to student representative voting rights.

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

Section 38M of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking in lines 9 through 14 the phrase “Said chairperson shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the school committee, without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee. Said chairperson shall be subject to all school committee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.” and inserting in place thereof the following:-

“School committees of cities, towns, and regional school districts shall recognize two (2) student representatives, to be elected by the student bodies of all secondary schools within the district, prior to the first day of June in each year. Said representatives shall be allowed to vote on all matters before the committee. Student representatives shall be subject to all school

committee rules and regulations, shall serve without compensation, and without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee.

There shall also be a student advisory committee with members numbered as determined by the district, to be elected by the students of the secondary school or schools within the district. The purpose of said student advisory committee will be to assist the elected student representatives with their regular duties and to assist their constituents with accessing resources as well as connecting students with the student representatives.”



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 568

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Tricia Farley-Bouvier*

*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 student representative voting rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 568

---

By Representative Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 568) of Tricia Farley-Bouvier relative to student representative voting rights on school committees. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 474 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to student representative voting rights.

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

Chapter 71 Section 38M of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 official edition, is hereby amended by striking the words “Said chairperson shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the school committee, without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee. Said chairperson shall be subject to all school committee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.” in lines 9 through 14 and inserting in their place the following:

“School committees of cities, towns and regional school districts shall recognize two (2) student representatives, to be elected by the student bodies of all secondary schools within the district, prior to the first day of June in each year. Said representatives shall be allowed to vote on all matters before the committee. Student representatives shall be subject to all school

committee rules and regulations, shall serve without compensation, and without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee.

There shall also be a student advisory committee with members numbered as determined by the district, to be elected by the students of the secondary school or schools within the district. The purpose of said student advisory committee will be to assist the elected student representatives with their regular duties and to assist their constituents with accessing resources as well as connecting students with the student representatives.”

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 734 / Senate, No. 343
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act fulfilling the promise of education reform
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Andres X. Vargas of Haverhill Senator Sal N. DiDomenico (Middlesex and Suffolk)
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.600 and S.267 of the 2023-2024 legislative session; study.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill creates an eleven-member commission – the Promise Commission – to study the current and future vision and needs of public education in the Commonwealth, including the educator pipeline, educator diversity, reputation of the profession, curricula to meet future needs, non-traditional learning models, alternative models of assessment and accountability, and wrap-around and social-emotional learning programs. The Commission will issue a report that re-envision the power and potential of the Massachusetts education system for all students. H.734 requires the Commission to submit its findings to the secretary of education, the clerks of the house and senate, and the committees on ways and means and education arts and humanities by no later than March 1, 2026.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 734

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Andres X. Vargas and Manny Cruz*

*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 fulfilling the promise of education reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 734

---

By Representatives Vargas of Haverhill and Cruz of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 734) of Andres X. Vargas, Manny Cruz and Paul McMurtry for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to be known as the promise commission to conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning education in the 21st century. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act fulfilling the promise of education reform.

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

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Legislature shall establish a commission, hereafter referred to as “the Promise Commission”, the purpose of which is to study the current status, structures, future vision and needs of public education. Said commission shall develop a plan to align the Commonwealth’s expectations for public education in the next decade with demonstrable evidence that students have developed the necessary competencies to succeed in an ever-evolving world.

SECTION 1. The Promise Commission shall consist of eleven (11) members appointed as follows: House Speaker or a designee, the Senate President or a designee, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Commissioner of Early Education and Care, the Commissioner of Higher Education, a member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, a member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School

Committees, a member appointed by the Massachusetts affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, a member appointed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, a member appointed by the Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership, and a Massachusetts based member appointed by Latinos for Education.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning education in the 21st Century, including but not limited to: educator pipeline (including recruitment, career development, and retention); educator diversity; improved reputation and perception of the profession; curriculum and course of studies that meet the needs of students in a global society regarding technology; flexible learning models beyond traditional “seat time;” multilingualism as an asset and an aspiration; multiple modes of assessing learning beyond MCAS; identifying valid and credible high school competency determination paths and methods; broader methods used for accountability that are ambitious, attainable, and compassionate; reexamination of charter schools as part of the accountability system; and structures that take students from pre-K through college and provide the wrap-around social/emotional and education coaching at each age. With these and other goals, the Commission will dive deep into best practices found in other states and other countries.

SECTION 3. The Promise Commission shall develop a comprehensive report that reenvision the power and potential of the Massachusetts education system for all students who are in our schools and who will be in our schools for years to come.

SECTION 4. Said commission shall report its findings to the secretary of education, the clerks of the house and senate, and the committees on ways and means and education arts and humanities by no later than March 1, 2026

# SENATE . . . . . No. 343

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Sal N. DiDomenico***

*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 fulfilling the promise of education reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Sal N. DiDomenico*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Middlesex and Suffolk*

# SENATE . . . . . No. 343

---

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 343) of Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to fulfill the promise of education reform. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 267 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act fulfilling the promise of education reform.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Legislature shall establish a Special Commission to study the current status, structures, future vision and needs of public education which will include but not be limited to all aspects of where we want public education to be in five to ten years.

The Promise Commission shall consist of eleven (11) members appointed as follows: the speaker of the house or a designee, the president of the senate or a designee, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, the commissioner of early education and care, the commissioner of higher education, a member appointed by the Massachusetts association of school superintendents, a member appointed by the Massachusetts association of school committees, a member appointed by the Massachusetts affiliate of the American federation of

teachers, a member appointed by the Massachusetts teachers association, a member appointed by the Massachusetts education equity partnership, and a Massachusetts based member appointed by Latinos for education.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning education in the 21st Century, including but not limited to: educator pipeline (including recruitment, career development, and retention); educator diversity; improved reputation and perception of the profession; curriculum and course of studies that meet the needs of students in a global society regarding technology; flexible learning models beyond traditional “seat time;” multilingualism as an asset and an aspiration; multiple modes of assessing learning beyond MCAS; broader methods used for accountability that are ambitious, attainable, and compassionate; and structures that take students from pre-K through college and provide the wrap-around social/emotional and education coaching at each age. With these and other goals, the Commission will dive deep into best practices found in other states and other countries.

SECTION 3. The Promise Commission shall develop a comprehensive report that re-envision the power and potential of the Massachusetts education system for all students who are in our schools and who will be in our schools for years to come.



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 660

**TITLE**

An Act concerning equitable state summative assessments of students

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Kelly Pease - 4<sup>th</sup> Hampden

**PRIOR HISTORY**

H.519 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 69:1 pertains to the intent of education in the Commonwealth

MGL 69:1I pertains to performances of public school districts and individual public schools; evaluation system; and assessment instruments

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL 69:1 by adding language to ensure that the mechanism used to measure student growth and educator accountability is equitable for all children by making it computer-adaptive and able to monitor actual student achievement and progress in mastery of K-12 standards. The bill further amends MGL 69:1I to require that the evaluation system be criterion-referenced and flexible enough to assess which levels of various academic standards students are meeting.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 660

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kelly W. Pease*

*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 concerning equitable state summative assessments of students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/6/2025</i>



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 660

---

By Representative Pease of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 660) of Kelly W. Pease relative to state summative assessments of students. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act concerning equitable state summative assessments of students.

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

Section 1 of Chapter 69 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out item (4) and inserting in place thereof the following words, effective July 1, 2021:

“(4) to provide equity in opportunity for all children to reach their full potential, an effective mechanism in the form of a computer-adaptive assessment with a high enough ceiling and low enough floor to monitor the actual achievement and progress of individual students’ mastery through the various K-12 learning standards in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, which mechanism seeks to identify, on an annual basis, the learning standards students likely have already mastered and those which they haven’t, for the purposes of identifying all students’ authentic growth, ensuring their continuous progress through those learning standards, identifying directly the actual level of each student’s learning readiness in the public classrooms of the Commonwealth, and of holding educators more accurately and fairly accountable through such authentic measure of students’ achievement and growth.”

Section 1I of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by replacing the fourth sentence of the second paragraph with the following sentence, effective July 1, 2023:

“To provide equity in opportunity for all children to reach their full potential, such instruments shall be criterion-referenced and flexible enough to assess which levels of the various academic standards, described in this chapter, that students are meeting.”

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 659

**TITLE**

An Act relative to equity and inclusion in education

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Kelly Pease – 4<sup>th</sup> Hampden

**PRIOR HISTORY**

H.644 of the 2021-22 Session; Study. H.518 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 69:1 pertains to the intent of education in the Commonwealth

MGL 69:1B pertains to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

MGL 69:1I pertains to performances of public school districts and individual public schools; evaluation system; and assessment instruments

MGL 76:5 pertains to place of school attendance and discrimination in admissions to public schools

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL 69:1 by adding language to ensure that the mechanism used to measure student growth and educator accountability is equitable for all children by making it computer-adaptive and able to monitor actual student achievement and progress in mastery of K-12 standards. The bill further amends MGL 69:1I to require that the evaluation system be criterion-referenced and flexible enough to assess which levels of various academic standards students are meeting.

The bill also amends MGL 69:1B by adding language defining “school age child” and requiring BESE to establish regulations to engage school aged children at a level commensurate with their demonstrated achievement and further requires BESE to develop procedures regarding computer-adaptive assessments. The bill also amends MGL 76:5 by adding language prohibiting age discrimination among students in public schools.



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 659

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kelly W. Pease*

*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 equity and inclusion in education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/6/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 659**

---

By Representative Pease of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 659) of Kelly W. Pease relative to equity and inclusion in education. Education.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to equity and inclusion in education.

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

Section 1 of Chapter 69 of the General laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out item (4) and inserting in place thereof the following words, effective July 1, 2023:

“(4) an effective mechanism in the form of a computer-adaptive assessment with a high enough ceiling and low enough floor to monitor the actual progress of individual students’ mastery through the various K-12 learning standards in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies; which mechanism seeks to identify, on an annual basis, the learning standards students likely have already mastered and those which they haven’t, for the purposes of identifying all students’ authentic growth, ensuring their continuous progress through those learning standards, identifying directly the actual level of each student’s learning readiness in the public classrooms of the Commonwealth, and of holding educators more accurately and fairly accountable through such authentic measure of students’ achievement and growth.”

Section 1B of Chapter 69 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraphs after the first paragraph:

For the purposes of this section the term “school age child” shall mean every child between the minimum age established by regulations created pursuant to chapter 76 section 1 and through age 21, who has not attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, and those who are age 19 or below on July 1 of any year, if they have attained a high school diploma.

The board of elementary and secondary education shall establish regulations, to become effective no later than July 1, 2023, to establish an education system that will engage each school age child in learning at a level commensurate with their prior demonstrated achievement, and at a pace which is suitable for each, within the K-12 education program in all public schools in the Commonwealth.

The board of elementary and secondary education, by July 1, 2025, shall develop or procure and distribute to districts, formative and computer-adaptive interim assessments to measure each of the K-12 learning standards; and shall expand the state-wide student-level information data system to include individual student data from those assessments, along with the data from the annual summative accountability assessment.

The board of elementary and secondary education shall ensure that all assessment data collected on children is analyzed to determine, for each, the appropriate level of instruction in each of the content areas, and that the Department will deliver the results to schools.

Section 1I of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by replacing the fourth sentence of the second paragraph with the following sentence, effective July 1, 2023:

“Such instruments shall be criterion-referenced and flexible enough to assess which levels of the various academic standards described in this chapter students are meeting.”

Section 5 of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof, the following sentence:

“No person admitted to any public school shall be discriminated against in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of age.”



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 738
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to civic test requirements for graduation.
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Marcus S. Vaughn of Wrentham
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.574 of 2021-22 session; study. H.607 of 2023-2024 session; study.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 71:2 pertains to teaching of history and social science; professional development; student-led civics projects; commonwealth civics challenge. Acts of 2018 Chapter 296: An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement.

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL 71:2 to require the creation of a civic test that all students must pass to graduate high school or get an equivalent diploma. To pass a student must receive a 60 out of 100 on the exam. The exams' questions will be identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used for US citizenship. A student may retake the exam until they pass. Students receiving special education services will not be required to take the exam to graduate. The bill requires DESE to establish rules and regulation to ensure that schools adhere to this bill.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 738**

---

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Marcus S. Vaughn***

*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 civic test requirements for graduation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/3/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 738

---

By Representative Vaughn of Wrentham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 738) of Marcus S. Vaughn relative to requiring high school students to pass a civics test prior to graduation. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 607 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to civic test requirements for graduation.

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

Section 2 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in chapter 296 of the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:-

“(e) All public high schools shall provide a civics test for all of their students prior to graduation. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a general equivalency diploma, a pupil must correctly answer at least 60 of the 100 questions listed on a civics test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. A pupil who does not obtain a passing score on the test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test may retake the test until the pupil obtains a passing score. Pupils who receive special education shall not be required to achieve passing scores on the civics test in order to graduate from high school.

(f) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish rules and regulations for monitoring adherence subsection (e).

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 612
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to an educational unfunded mandate task force
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Bradley Jones of North Reading
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.640 of the 2020-21 Session; study. H.508 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an 11-member educational mandate task force to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts. The task force must review state laws and regulations for school districts, including reporting requirements. The task force also must develop recommendations to streamline, consolidate or eliminate those mandates that are not fully funded, and determine the total estimated cost of said unfunded mandates. Recommendations must be published within one year of its first meeting.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 612

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Bradley H. Jones, Jr.***

*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 an educational unfunded mandate task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2025</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2025</i>
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 612

---

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 612) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for legislation to provide for investigation by a task force (including members of the General Court) relative to the state mandates placed on public schools and districts. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 508 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to an educational unfunded mandate task force.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be an educational mandate task force to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts in the commonwealth. The task force shall consist of 11 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees, who shall serve as the co-chairs of the task force; a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; and 6 persons to be appointed by the secretary of education, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the

Massachusetts Association of School Committees, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association, and 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Administrators of Special Education.

SECTION 2. The task force shall: (i) identify and review the state laws, regulations, and administrative directives that prescribe requirements for school districts, including those that require school districts to prepare and submit reports and data to the department of elementary and secondary education (ii) develop recommendations to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate such mandates or reporting requirements that are not fully funded and (iii) determine the total estimated cost of said unfunded mandates on municipalities to consider those figures in the annual fiscal year budget.

SECTION 3. The first meeting of the task force shall take place within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house and senate not later than 12 months following the first meeting of the task force. Prior to issuing its recommendations, the task force shall conduct at least one public hearing to receive testimony from members of the public.



**Joint Committee on Education  
Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 617
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act establishing an educational mandate task force
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Hannah Kane of Shrewsbury
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.640 of the 2020-21 Session; study. H.511 of the 2023-2024 Session; study.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an 11-member educational mandate task force to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts. The task force must review state laws and regulations requiring districts to report to DESE and DESE to report to the legislature. The task force also must develop recommendations to streamline or eliminate outdated or duplicative requirements, including the feasibility of creating a single master reporting form. Recommendations must be published within one year of its first meeting.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 617**

---

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Hannah Kane***

---

*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 an educational mandate task force.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2025</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 617

---

By Representative Kane of Shrewsbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 617) of Hannah Kane, Colleen M. Garry and Bradley H. Jones, Jr., for an investigation by a special task force (including members of the General Court) relative to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts in the Commonwealth. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 511 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an educational mandate task force.

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

There shall be an educational mandate task force to review existing state mandates placed on public schools and districts in the Commonwealth. The task force shall consist of 11 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designees, who shall serve as the co-chairs of the task force; a member of the general court appointed by the senate minority leader; a member of the general court appointed by the house minority leader; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; and 6 persons to be appointed by the secretary of education, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School

Committees, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association, 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association, and 1 of whom shall be selected from a list of 3 persons nominated by the Massachusetts Administrators of Special Education.

The task force shall: (i) identify and review the state laws, regulations, and administrative directives that prescribe requirements for school districts, including those that require school districts to prepare and submit reports and data to the department of elementary and secondary education; (ii) identify the state laws that require the department of elementary and secondary education to submit reports to the legislature based on information it must obtain from school districts; and (iii) develop recommendations to streamline, consolidate, or eliminate such mandates or reporting requirements that are outdated, or duplicative of or inconsistent with current laws, regulations or practices. In developing its recommendations, the task force shall consider the feasibility of creating a single master reporting form to prevent duplicate information from being reported by school districts more than once yearly. Such recommendations shall also include a process for ensuring that new state laws or regulations do not duplicate existing reporting requirements.

The first meeting of the task force shall take place within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, if any, with the clerks of the house and senate not later than 12 months following the first meeting of the task force. Prior to issuing its recommendations, the

task force shall conduct at least one public hearing to receive testimony from members of the public.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 729
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Steven Ultrino – 33 <sup>rd</sup> Middlesex
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.596 of 2023-2024 Session; redrafted to S.2661, SWM.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 15:1E pertains to board of elementary and secondary education; composition; disqualification; tenure; vacancies; chairman; expenses; meetings; student advisory and regional councils

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL15:1E by striking out language that requires that appointed board members cannot work for or receive regular pay from the Department of Education or any public or private school in the state, nor can they serve on a school committee. Additionally, no more than two board members may be full-time employees of any state agency.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 729

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Steven Ultrino and Sean Garballey*

*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 the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 729

---

By Representatives Ultrino of Malden and Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 729) of Steven Ultrino and Sean Garballey for legislation to further regulate the composition of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1E of chapter 15 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence.



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 726 / Senate, No. 409

**TITLE**

An Act to establish a community schools  
special legislative commission

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Chyna Tyler – 7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk  
Senator Paul Mark - Berkshire, Hampden,  
Franklin and Hampshire

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill would create definitions for the terms “community school” as a public school that partners with local resources through a dedicated coordinator to support student achievement and well-being using wraparound services and collaborative strategies, and defines “community schools strategy” as a model that transforms a school into a community hub through partnerships among educators, families, and community members. It establishes a 15-member special legislative commission to study and make recommendations on expanding community schools in Massachusetts, with representation from legislative leaders, state agencies, educators, advocacy organizations, and appointees from the Governor reflecting diverse geographic and stakeholder perspectives. The commission is tasked with examining community school implementation in Massachusetts and other jurisdictions, identifying best practices, equity strategies, and barriers such as legal or funding challenges, and meeting at least every two months. It must submit a report by February 15, 2026, with detailed policy recommendations, including codified definitions, statewide funding strategies, and a proposal for a community school pilot program outlining eligibility, resource needs, funding processes, and evaluation criteria.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 726

---

## 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. 726

---

By Representative Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 726) of Chynah Tyler for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate community schools and to make recommendations regarding the adoption of community schools. Education.

---

## 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:*

### SECTION XX

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

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

(ii) “Community Schools strategy”, a strategy that transforms a school into a community school where educators, local community members, families, and students work together to

establish shared vision and goals to strengthen conditions for student learning and healthy development, including but not limited to the organization of in- and out-of-school resources, supports, and student opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# SENATE . . . . . No. 409

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul W. Mark***

---

*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:	
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>9/9/2025</i>

# SENATE . . . . . No. 409

---

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 409) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to establish a community schools special legislative commission to investigate community schools and to make recommendations regarding the adoption of community schools across the commonwealth. Education.

---

## 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:*

SECTION 1. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

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

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



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

(b) There shall be a special legislative commission on community schools, hereinafter referred to as the commission, to investigate community schools and to make recommendations regarding the adoption of community schools across the commonwealth. The special legislative commission shall consist of 15 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education, or their designee, who shall serve as co-chairs; the secretary of Education or a designee; the secretary of Health and Human services or a designee; 1 representative from the Massachusetts Community Schools Coalition; 1 representative from the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts; 1 representative from Massachusetts Teachers Association; 1 representative from United Way of Massachusetts Bay; and 7 members to be appointed by the Governor: 2 of whom shall be student representatives from existing Massachusetts community schools, 1 of whom shall be a parent representative from an existing Massachusetts community schools, 1 of whom shall be a superintendent from a Massachusetts district employing community school strategies, 1 of whom shall be a principal of a Massachusetts community school, 1 of whom shall be a Massachusetts community school coordinator, and 1 of whom shall be a member who represents a community based organization. In making such appointments, the Governor shall consider rural, urban, and suburban geographic representation across the commission.

(c) The commission shall: (i) analyze systems, structures, and policies that support successful community school implementation models and trends in community school model adoption across different jurisdictions in the Commonwealth and nationwide; (ii) investigate the policies of other such jurisdictions intended to support and incentivize community school model

adoption, (iii) provide an assessment of community school adoption, implementation, and outcomes in Massachusetts; (iv) define the essential elements and principles of implementing community school models, including but not limited to as an equity strategy; (v) research the outcomes and evidence associated with community schools model adoption, including but not limited to reductions in school absenteeism; (vi) investigate the policies of other jurisdictions intended to support and incentivize community school adoption; (vii) identify any existing barriers, including but not limited to legal, regulatory, information and training, or funding barriers for Massachusetts schools to successfully adopt and implement community school strategies. The commission shall meet not less than once every two months.

(d) The commission shall develop a report of its findings and include specific recommendations in response to such findings, including any legislative or regulatory changes necessary for the Commonwealth to implement the commission's recommendations. At a minimum, such report shall include: (i) an overview of the findings of the commission's work pursuant to subsection (b), including but not limited to policy recommendations relative to codifying definitions relative to community schools; adopting policies and funding strategies to incentivize statewide adoption of community school strategies; and, creating sustainable funding streams in support of local district and school-level adoption and implementation of community school strategies; (ii) recommendations for a statewide community school pilot program including, but not limited to: (1) the number and nature of eligible communities to participate in the pilot program, (2) the resources necessary to support the pilot program, (3) the process by which pilot funding should be awarded, and (4) the data and outcomes reporting requirements and criteria for the evaluation of the pilot program and its participants. The commission shall file its report with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the senate and house

committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, the office of the governor, and the executive office of education not later than February 15, 2026.



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 694

**TITLE**

An Act to preserve local control of Chapter 74 admissions policies

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Adam Scanlon – 14<sup>th</sup> Bristol

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 74:1 pertains to definitions

MGL 74:7 pertains to admission of non-resident pupils

MGL 74:5 pertains to district trustees; powers and duties

**SUMMARY**

This bill would amend several sections of MGL 74 related to vocational-technical school admissions. It adds language to MGL 74:5 stating that admission to independent vocational-technical schools is determined by the district trustees, and that any changes to these requirements must be approved by a majority vote after a public hearing held at least 30 days after the proposed changes are made public. Notice of the hearing must be provided to those who have requested it and to interested individuals or organizations. Additionally, the bill creates a new section- section 59, establishing uniform procedures for setting and modifying admission requirements for both municipal/district and independent vocational-technical schools. These procedures include majority approval by trustees, approval by the school committee of the municipality if the board of trustees are nonexistent, a mandatory public hearing held at least 30 days after public notice, and notification to relevant stakeholders.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 694

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Adam J. Scanlon*

*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 preserve local control of Chapter 74 admissions policies.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>3/15/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/10/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 694**

---

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 694) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to admissions policies for vocational schools. Education.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to preserve local control of Chapter 74 admissions policies.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking, in line 9, the following words:-

“conditions of admission of student,”

SECTION 2. Section 7 of Chapter 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after the word “board,” in line 8, the following words:-

“provided that such admission would be in accordance with requirements for admission established pursuant to Section 3 and Section 59 of this chapter,”

SECTION 3. Section 5 of Chapter 74 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following words:-

“Requirements for admission to an independent vocational-technical school established pursuant to Section 4 of this chapter shall be determined by the district trustees for such an independent vocational-technical school. Changes to duly established requirements for admission to such an independent vocational-technical school shall be made by a majority vote of the district trustees and may be made only after at least one public hearing , held at least thirty days after the proposed change to admission requirements has been made public, and at which the public may offer remarks. Notice of the time and place of said public hearing, and of the availability for review of the proposed change to admission requirements shall be provided to each person who has previously requested the receipt of such notices from the district trustees, as well as to individuals and organizations known to the district trustees to have an interest in issues related to vocational-technical education.”

SECTION 4. Chapter 74 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding a new section:-

Section 59. (a) Requirements for admission to a vocational-technical school established pursuant to Section 3 of this chapter shall be determined by the board of trustees for the vocational-technical school or, if there is no such board of trustees, the school committee of the municipality. Changes to duly established requirements for admission to such a vocational-technical school shall be made by a majority vote of the district trustees and may be made only after at least one public hearing, held at least thirty days after the proposed change to admission requirements has been made public, and at which the public may offer remarks. Notice of the time and place of said public hearing, and of the availability for review of the proposed change to admission requirements shall be provided to each person who has previously requested the receipt of such notices from the board of trustees for the vocational-technical school or, if there



is no such board of trustees, the school committee, as well as to individuals and organizations known to the board of trustees for the vocational-technical school or, if there is no such board of trustees, the school committee to have an interest in issues related to vocational-technical education.

(b) Requirements for admission to an independent vocational-technical school established pursuant to Section 5A of this chapter shall be determined by the board of regional school district trustees for vocational-technical education, pursuant to Section 5A, for such a vocational-technical school. Changes to duly established requirements for admission to such an independent vocational-technical school shall be made by a majority vote of the district trustees and may be made only after at least one public hearing, held at least thirty days after the proposed change to admission requirements has been made public, and at which the public may offer remarks. Notice of the time and place of said public hearing, and of the availability for review of the proposed change to admission requirements shall be provided to each person who has previously requested the receipt of such notices from the board of regional school district trustees for vocational-technical education, as well as to individuals and organizations known to the board of regional school district trustees for vocational-technical education to have an interest in issues related to vocational-technical education.”

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 614

**TITLE**

An Act relative to issuing guidance regarding setting policies for the use of AI in schools

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Bradley Jones – 20<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGLA 69:1A pertains to department of elementary and secondary education (DESE); commissioner; duties

**SUMMARY**

This bill would require the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to issue guidelines for school districts and charter schools on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by students and educators. These guidelines must be based on best practices and cover topics such as the benefits and limitations of AI in education, safe usage, equity considerations, and factors schools should weigh when creating AI-related policies. To develop the guidelines, the department must hold at least three public hearings to gather input from key stakeholders, including superintendents, school leaders, and teachers. The guidelines must be updated as needed and published annually on the DESE website by September 1.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 614

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Bradley H. Jones, Jr.***

*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 issuing guidance regarding setting policies for the use of AI in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 614**

---

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 614) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to issuing guidance regarding setting policies for the use of AI in schools. Education.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to issuing guidance regarding setting policies for the use of AI in 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 1. Section 1A of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following:-

The commissioner shall issue guidelines, based off of available best practices, for school districts and charter schools on the usage of artificial intelligence (AI) programs by students and the utilization of these programs in the classroom by educators to enhance learning. The guidance shall include the benefits and limitations of AI in education; how to promote the safe use of AI by students and teachers; the equity implications of the use of AI in the classroom; and what factors schools should consider when setting policies concerning the use of AI. In developing such guidance, the department shall hold a minimum of three public hearings to gather input from relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, superintendent groups, school leaders, and teachers to determine what policies and procedures pertaining to the use of

AI is needed in schools. The commissioner shall update said guidelines as necessary and annually publish them on the department's website no later than September 1.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

**Joint Committee on Education  
Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 582

**TITLE**

**SPONSOR(S)**

**PRIOR HISTORY**

An Act relative to school committee oversight  
Representative William C. Galvin of 6<sup>th</sup> Norfolk  
by request from a petition of Paul McAuliffe  
H.4693 of 2021-22 session; referred to the  
committee on House Rules (JR10); reported,  
referred to committee on Joint rules, reported,  
rules suspended, and referred to the committee;  
study. H.482 of the 2023-2022 session; study.  
MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

**CURRENT LAW**

**SUMMARY**

This bill inserts a new section in MGL 71 after Section 97, that allows schools to establish supplemental courses or adopt courses of study that replace current state courses of study. Required information for these courses must be published on the district website including textbook information, syllabus, and state standards. The school can establish a course concerning STI's if parents are notified before the lesson occurs and parents can opt students out with no repercussions.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 582

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***William C. Galvin, (BY REQUEST)***

*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 committee oversight.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McAuliffe</i>		<i>1/14/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 582

---

By Representative Galvin of Canton (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 582) of Paul McAuliffe relative to school committee oversight of courses of study including courses concerning sexually transmitted infections. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 482 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to school committee oversight.

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

Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 97 the following section:-

Section 98. School Committees shall ensure that the courses of study prescribed by law and by the rules of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are carried out.

(a) The school committee may establish supplemental courses that are not inconsistent with the prescribed courses and may adopt courses of study in lieu of state courses of study upon approval by the district's Superintendent.



(b) For each course of study offered by a school district, the district school board shall ensure that the following information is made available to the public on the school district's website:

(i) The title of, or other descriptive information for, any textbooks and instructional materials used for the course and, when available, a link for the textbook or instructional materials;

(ii) A syllabus for, or written summary of, the course; and

(iii) When applicable, identification of the state academic content standards that are being satisfied by the course.

(c) The school committee shall ensure that any changes to the information described in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph are reflected on the school district's website within 30 days of the change.

(d) Any school committee may establish a course of education concerning sexually transmitted infections including recognition of causes, sources and symptoms, and the availability of diagnostic and treatment centers. Any such course established may be taught to adults from the community served by the individual schools as well as to students enrolled in the school. The board shall cause the parents or guardians of minor students to be notified in advance that the course is to be taught. Any such parent or guardian may direct in writing that the minor child in the care of the parent or guardian be excused from any class within the course. Any parent or guardian may inspect the instructional materials to be used before or during the time the course is taught.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 693 / Senate, No. 356

**TITLE**

An Act ensuring student representation, Aidan's law

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Adam Scanlon of 14<sup>th</sup> Bristol  
Senator Paul R. Feeney (Bristol and Norfolk)

**PRIOR HISTORY**

H.4691 of 2021-22 session; referred to committee on House Rules [JR10]; referred to the committee on Joint Rules; referred to Joint Committee of Education; study. H.572 and S.273 of 2023-2024 session; study.

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 71:38M pertains to student advisory committees.

MGL71:89 pertains to commonwealth charter schools; Horace Mann charter schools; application; enrollment; employees; funding

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL 71:38M by inserting language that applies the current requirements regarding student advisory committees to charter schools (which currently only apply to regular public schools). These requirements include having a student advisory committee of five students elected by the student body; having the school committee or board of trustees meet with the student advisory committee once every other month; having the student advisory committee elect chairperson who shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the school committee or board of trustees; and permitting schools to designate a student outreach coordinator who is tasked with informing the advisory committee of a school committee or the board of trustee's agenda.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 693

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Adam J. Scanlon*

*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 student representation, Aidan's law.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/6/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 693

---

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 693) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to student advisory committees at public schools. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act ensuring student representation, Aidan's law.

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

Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 38M and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 38M. School committees of cities, towns and regional school districts shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the high school or high schools in each city, town or regional school district.

The board of the trustees of a charter school, as defined in section 89, shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the charter school.

The members of such student advisory committees shall, by majority vote prior to the first day of June in each year elect from their number a chairperson who shall serve for a term of

one year. Said chairperson shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the school committee of the city, town or regional school district or as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the board of the trustees of the charter school. Said ex-officio members shall have no right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee or board of trustees. Said chairperson shall be subject to all school committee or board of trustee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.

A school committee of a city, town or regional school district or the board of trustees of a charter school may designate a student outreach coordinator for the purpose of ensuring the establishment of a student advisory committee and regularly informing the advisory committee of the school committee's or board of trustee's agenda.

# SENATE . . . . . No. 356

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul R. Feeney***

---

*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 student representation, Aidan's Law.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Paul R. Feeney*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Bristol and Norfolk*

# SENATE . . . . . No. 356

---

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 356) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to ensure ensuring student representation, Aidan's Law. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 273 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act ensuring student representation, Aidan's Law.

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

Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 38M and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 38M. School committees of cities, towns and regional school districts shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the high school or high schools in each city, town or regional school district.

The board of the trustees of a charter school, as defined in section 89, shall meet at least once every other month, during the months school is in session, with a student advisory committee to consist of five members to be composed of students elected by the student body of the charter school.

The members of such student advisory committees shall, by majority vote prior to the first day of June in each year elect from their number a chairperson who shall serve for a term of one year. Said chairperson shall be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the school committee of the city, town or regional school district or as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the board of the trustees of the charter school. Said ex-officio members shall have no right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the individual school committee or board of trustees. Said chairperson shall be subject to all school committee or board of trustee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.

A school committee of a city, town or regional school district or the board of trustees of a charter school may designate a student outreach coordinator for the purpose of ensuring the establishment of a student advisory committee and regularly informing the advisory committee of the school committee's or board of trustee's agenda.





**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 535
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to student voices
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Manny Cruz of 7 <sup>th</sup> Essex
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.446 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted to S.2661, SWM
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 71:38M pertains to student advisory committees

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL 71:38M by striking out the words “ex-officio, non-voting member” and replacing them with “voting member.” To require that the student representative is a voting member of the school committee.

The bill also replaces “shall serve without compensation” with language that states the student representative would receive a scholarship at the conclusion of their senior year if the student completed a full year of service. If the student serves for less than a year the school committee may choose to provide the student with a partial scholarship. A school committee may also choose to provide a stipend, throughout the year, to the student representative for their service.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 535

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Manny Cruz and Christopher J. Worrell*

*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 student voice.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 535

---

By Representatives Cruz of Salem and Worrell of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 535) of Manny Cruz and Christopher J. Worrell relative to members of student advisory committees. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 446 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to student voice.

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

Section 38m of chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out in the 2nd paragraph the words :-“ex-officio, non voting member” and replacing them with the word “voting member” .

Further amends Section 38m of chapter 71 “shall serve without compensation”, and replacing them with the “shall receive a scholarship subject to appropriation by the committee at the conclusion of their senior year in recognition of their service to the district. The student representative must complete at least 1 year of full service in order to be eligible. The school committee may provide a partial scholarship to a student representative who does not complete their year of service. The school committee may also determine whether or not to provide a stipend remunerate the student representative for their service to district”

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No.552
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act parental rights legislation
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative David F. Decoste of 5 <sup>th</sup> Plymouth by petition of Thomas Durfee
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.457 of the 2023-2024 session; study.
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	N/A

**SUMMARY**

This bill grants public schools and school committees the right to reject any guidance and directives from DESE. It guarantees public schools who reject any of DESE guidance and directives will not face any repercussions. It gives the power to dictate policies and procedures to local school jurisdiction, specifically school committees and the citizens that elect them.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 552

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***David F. DeCoste***

*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 parental rights legislation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 552

---

By Representative DeCoste of Norwell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 552) of David F. DeCoste that local public schools and school committees be authorized to reject any and all guidance and directives from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 457 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act parental rights legislation.

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

Local public school jurisdictions and school committees have the right to reject any and all guidance and directives from DESE entirely or at the line item level without any fear of reprisal in the form of faculty and administration losing their licensure, criminal referrals of faculty, administration or school committee members, or the withholding of state funds. The power to dictate all policy and procedure in local school jurisdictions is held by the school committee members and the citizens and parents that elect them.

**Joint Committee on Education  
Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 537
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to school site councils and the district parent advisory council
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Manny Cruz of Essex
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.3944 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted to H.4681, HWM
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools in the Commonwealth. MGL 71: 59C pertains to schools' councils; members; meetings; and duties. MGL 71B:3 pertains to identification of school age children with a disability; diagnosis of disability; proposal of program; evaluation and assessments of child and program. MGL 71A:6A pertains to English learner parent advisory council.

**SUMMARY**

The bill requires the parent advisory council on special education, English learner parent advisory council, and a district parent advisory council to create biannual presentations and act as advisory councils to the school committee. The superintendent is required to provide a manual for the council members, and the school must fund all training for the members. The bill requires school councils to have annual assessments based on the federal report card, and to provide biannual progress reports. The school council must do an annual group evaluation of their performance, and report to the school committee.





# HOUSE . . . . . No. 537

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Manny Cruz***

---

*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 site councils and the district parent advisory council.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 537**

---

By Representative Cruz of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 537) of Manny Cruz relative to school site councils and district parent advisory councils. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3944 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to school site councils and the district parent advisory council.

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

Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 59C the following section:-

Section 59C½. (a)(1) A parent advisory council on special education established in section 3 of chapter 71B, an English learner parent advisory council established in section 6A of chapter 71A and a district parent advisory council established in said section 6A of said chapter 71A shall serve as advisory councils to the school committee. Each parent advisory council shall provide a biannual presentation of their work pursuant to said enabling sections in the school district to the school committee.

(2) The school committee shall be responsible to ensure funding for training of school council members established in section 59C of chapter 71 including, but not limited to, relevant

local governance, leadership training and Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc. training offered by the school district. The superintendent shall provide a manual written by employees of the school district on school council governance for the training of school council members.

(b) The school council shall assess the needs of each school by reviewing the federal annual state report card under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(h) at the earliest possible date after publication.

(c) The school council shall provide complete progress reports on current goals at the middle and end of school year in time to be available for school budget development and for future school year planning.

(d) The school council shall complete an annual evaluation and rating of the school council's performance as a group. The evaluation will be distributed in April to the principal and school council chairperson and completed by June 1. A copy of said evaluation shall be provided to the school committee.

(e) The department shall establish rules and regulations that are necessary to implement this section.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No.504
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act to ensure equitable representation of required parent advisory councils to school committee
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative James Arciero of Westford
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	H.425 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted to H.4681, HWM
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 71A pertains to English language education in public schools. MGL 71B pertains to children with special needs. CMR 603: 14.09 pertains to English Learner Parent Advisory Councils. CMR 603 28.03(1) pertains to school district administration and personnel in relation to special education. CMR 603 28.07(4) pertains to parents' involvement in relation to special education.

**SUMMARY**

The bill requires the English Language Learner Parents Advisory Councils (ELLPAC) and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) to provide a member of their councils to sit on their district's school committee. This representative will be picked annually. The representative is required to be picked within 30 days of the election. These representatives are nonvoting member, who can only attend executive session if directly invited by their district's school committee. This position will not be compensated.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 504

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*James Arciero*

*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 ensure equitable representation of required parent advisory councils to school committees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 504

---

By Representative Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 504) of James Arciero for legislation to ensure equitable representation of required parent advisory councils to school committees. Education.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 425 OF 2023-2024.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure equitable representation of required parent advisory councils to school committees.

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

Notwithstanding any general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, each school district in Massachusetts, being required by Massachusetts Law, following the criteria specifically outlined in and Chapter 71A and regulation 603 CMR 14.09 (1-5), and Chapter 71B, and regulations 603 CMR 28.07(4) and 603 CMR 28.03 (1)(a)(4), respectively, to support English Language Learner Parent Advisory Councils and Special Education Parent Advisory Councils, shall provide an ex-officio, nonvoting seat on the school committee to representatives from the school district's ELLPAC and SEPAC, without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the district's school committee.

The ELLPAC and SEPAC shall elect one representative each from their membership annually, and in accordance with their bylaws, and shall notify the school committee of their selection within 30 days of election. Said ELLPAC and SEPAC representatives shall be subject to all school committee rules and regulations and shall serve without compensation.



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 3980

**TITLE**

An Act establishing LGBTQIA+ parent advisory councils in the Commonwealth

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Carmine Gentile - 13th Middlesex

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 70 pertains to public schools

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL Chapter 71 by adding Section 1E to require every city, town, or school district to establish an LGBTQIA+ Parent Advisory Council, open to parents who identify as LGBTQIA+, have LGBTQIA+ children, or are other interested parties. The council will advise on LGBTQIA+ student education and safety, collaborate with school officials on district programs, and participate in improvement plan reviews. The council may request annual meetings with school or charter boards, must set by-laws, and will receive support from the school committee as resources allow. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is authorized to issue or revise rules to implement the act, which takes effect January 1, 2027.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3980

---

## 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 bill:

An Act establishing LGBTQIA+ parent advisory councils in the Commonwealth.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/21/2025</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>5/20/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montañó</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3980

---

By Representative Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile, Liz Miranda and Samantha Montañó for legislation to establish LGBTQIA+ parent advisory councils in public schools. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing LGBTQIA+ parent advisory councils in the Commonwealth.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1D the following section:

Section 1E. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the school committee of any city, town, or school district shall establish a LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, or another identity on the Queer spectrum) parent advisory council. Membership shall be offered to all parents who identify themselves as LGBTQIA+ or have children who identify as LGBTQIA+, and other interested parties.

The duties of the council shall include, but not be limited to: (i) advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of LGBTQIA+ students; (ii) meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district's programs; (iii) participating in the review of school improvement plans under section 59C of chapter 71 and district improvement plans under

section 1I of chapter 69. Upon request from a parent advisory council, each school committee or school council within that parent advisory council's district shall meet at least annually with the council; provided, however, that if the parent advisory council advises a charter school the board of the charter school shall, upon request from the parent advisory council, meet not less than annually with the council. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this section, the council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources. SECTION 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind rules and regulations or formulate policies and make recommendations as necessary to implement this act. SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	House, No. 3941
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to the department of elementary and secondary education visiting school districts
<b><u>SPONSOR(S)</u></b>	Representative Alyson Sullivan-Almeida – 7 <sup>th</sup> Plymouth
<b><u>PRIOR HISTORY</u></b>	N/A
<b><u>CURRENT LAW</u></b>	MGL 69:1A pertains to department of elementary and secondary education (DESE); commissioner; duties

**SUMMARY**

This bill would amend MGL 69:1A by adding that DESE would not be required to provide notice to a school district before visiting a school located in the district.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3941

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

*Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida*

---

*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 the department of elementary and secondary education visiting school districts.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3941

---

By Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3941) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida relative to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education visiting school districts. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the department of elementary and secondary education visiting school districts.

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

Section 1A of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

The department shall not be required to provide notice to a school district before visiting a school located in the district.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 4207/ Senate, No. 428

**TITLE**

An Act relative to school library standards

**SPONSOR(S)**

Senator Jacob Oliveira, Representative Angelo Puppolo

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 69 pertains to powers and duties of the department of elementary and secondary education

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends MGL Chapter 69 by adding Section 1U, focused on School Library Standards. It defines key terms, including “school library standards” based on American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) guidelines, “effective school library program” staffed by certified librarians with equitable access and personalized learning, and “schools” covering all public, charter, private day, residential, and collaborative schools in Massachusetts. The department of elementary and secondary education is required to adopt these standards, which must include age-appropriate collections, K–12 instruction in information literacy and research, support for reading proficiency, and integration of learning technologies. The commissioner will support schools in implementing the standards, which may be integrated into existing curricula. Starting in the third year after enactment and every third year after, subject to funding, the department must conduct a study on implementation, including librarian staffing and library program types, and issue public reports with best practices and recommendations.



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4207

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.*

*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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/7/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/18/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>4/16/2025</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>6/18/2025</i>
<i>Mark D. Sylvia</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>10/21/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4207

---

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and Samantha Montañó relative to school library standards. Education.

---

## 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:*

Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1T the following new section:-

### Section 1U. School Library Standards

As used in this section, (i) the term “school library standards” means the most recent edition of academic standards for school library media programs developed by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and endorsed for the commonwealth by the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA); (ii) the term “effective school library program” means school library programs that are staffed by certified school librarians, offer equitable access to a collection and other resources for all students, and provides personalized learning environments for students within

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

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

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

# SENATE . . . . . No. 428

---

## 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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Judith A. Garcia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/29/2025</i>
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>5/23/2025</i>
<i>Mark D. Sylvia</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>10/21/2025</i>

# SENATE . . . . . No. 428

---

By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 428) of Jacob R. Oliveira, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Lindsay N. Sabadosa, David Paul Linsky and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to school library standards. Education.

---

## 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:*

Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1T the following new section:-

### Section 1U. School Library Standards

As used in this section, (i) the term “school library standards” means the most recent edition of academic standards for school library media programs developed by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and endorsed for the commonwealth by the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA); (ii) the term “effective school library program” means school library programs that are staffed by certified school librarians, offer equitable access to a collection and other resources for all students, and provides personalized learning environments for students within

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

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

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



**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 4038

**TITLE**

An Act relative to school transportation  
reimbursement

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative John Barrett – 1<sup>st</sup> Berkshire

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 71 pertains to public schools

**SUMMARY**

This bill would amend MGL 71 whose subject matter is public schools, by creating a new section, section 7D, in which 100% reimbursement of transportation costs not reimbursable under section 7A, the state treasurer, on or before November 20, would pay to a qualifying municipality the amount necessary to fully reimburse the costs incurred for transporting pupils between home and school.

A qualifying municipality eligible for funding under this section should meet all of the following criteria: (i) it is not a gateway municipality, as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A; (ii) it does not receive transportation reimbursement from the Commonwealth because it is not a member of a regional school district; and (iii) at least 10% of its population lives at or below the federal poverty line, as determined by the most recent United States Census Bureau statistics. The bill would take effect on July 30, 2025.

.



# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4038

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***John Barrett, III***

---

*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 transportation reimbursement.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/8/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4038

---

By Representative Barrett of North Adams, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4038) of John Barrett, III relative to school transportation reimbursement. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to school transportation reimbursement.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 7C the following section:-

Section 7D. (a) To provide for a 100 per cent reimbursement of the cost of transportation not reimbursable under section 7A, the state treasurer shall annually, on or before November 20, pay to a qualifying municipality the sums required for full reimbursement of transportation costs incurred directly from the transportation between school and home of any pupil.

(b) A qualifying municipality eligible for funding under this section shall include any municipality that: (i) is not a gateway municipality as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A; (ii) receives no transportation reimbursement from the commonwealth because it is not a member of a regional school district; and (iii) has a population with 10 per cent or more living at or below the federal poverty line, as determined by the most recent United States Census Bureau statistics.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 30, 2025.

**Joint Committee on Education**  
**Bill Summary**

---

**BILL NUMBER**

House, No. 4059

**TITLE**

An Act relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in schools

**SPONSOR(S)**

Representative Paul McMurty – 11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk

**PRIOR HISTORY**

N/A

**CURRENT LAW**

MGL 69:1C pertains to minimum nutritional standards for school food services; regulations; breakfast programs; guidelines for reimbursement of costs; hepatitis B immunization

Section 18 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023

**SUMMARY**

This bill would further amend MGL 69:1C by including that any city, town or regional school district that provides students both breakfast and lunch at no charge may create a program in partnership with local farmers to provide locally grown produce for school breakfast and school lunch.

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4059

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul McMurtry***

---

*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 fresh fruits and vegetables in schools.

---

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4059

---

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4059) of Paul McMurtry relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in schools. Education.

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in 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 1C of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 18 of chapter 77 of the acts of 2023, is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:-

(c) Any city, town or regional school district that accepts this subsection may create a program in partnership with local farmers to provide locally grown produce for school breakfast and school lunch.

