



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: Monday, July 21, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Location: Gardner Auditorium and Virtual

The Joint Committee on Education will be holding a hearing on bills related to Health.

Date of Hearing: Monday, July 21st, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Location: Gardner Auditorium and Virtual

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 Health.

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 **12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18th, 2025**.

Registration will CLOSE at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18th, 2025. 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 and Emily Reynolds at emily.reynolds@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 July 28th, 2025.**

All matters filed in the House that are listed above are required to be reported on September 19th, 2025, subject to extensions consistent with House Rule 27.

The public is invited to participate in this hybrid hearing, which will be livestreamed on the General Court website, <https://malegislature.gov/>. Hearings will be recorded and posted publicly on the Joint Committee on Education page

<https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J14/>

At the discretion of the Chairs and per committee rules, written testimony received by the committee will be made publicly available. The committee may limit availability or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information, information about minors, or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2070 or (617) 722-1206 or email fiona.brucebaiden@mahouse.gov and emily.reynolds@masenate.gov if you have any questions. Thank you.

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

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 684
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act concerning disposable menstrual products in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Jeffrey N. Roy of Franklin
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.593 of the 2023-2024 session; reported favorably to House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling; ordered to third reading.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by creating a new section, Section 68A, which defines disposable menstrual products as items used in connection with the menstrual cycle. This bill requires all public schools serving 6th-12th grade students to provide disposable menstrual products in the restrooms of such school buildings at no charge to the students. This bill also requires school districts to ensure that such products be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking such products. The act goes into effect on August 1, 2026.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 539 / Senate, No. 401
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to healthy school lunches
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Michael Day of Stoneham Senator Jason Lewis of the Fifth Middlesex
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.451 in 2023-2024 session; attached to H558: reported favorably to House Ways and Means. S.208 in 2023-2024 session; attached to S243; reported favorably to Senate Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 6 pertains to the governor, lieutenant governor and council, certain officers under the governor and council and state library. MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

This bill would require 50% of all entrees sold served in public schools by food service management companies to be healthy foods. It would limit ultra-processed, high calorie, and high cholesterol foods to not more than 20% of all entrees served over the course of a week. This bill would designate March 21 as Massachusetts Child Nutrition Day.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 742
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to provide an option to opt out of free school lunch.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Marcus Vaughn of 9 th Norfolk.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 69 pertains to the powers and duties of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SUMMARY

Amends MGL 69 by adding a new section, 1C ½, which allows a school to opt of any state non-income-based free lunch program, including the programs established and required in MGL 69:1C. The school district may still choose to continue obtaining and utilizing the funds for the non-income based free food program. If a school does not opt out of the free lunch program a student parent or guardian may opt their child out of the free lunch program. The student may still choose to purchase school lunch at a rate set by the school district. Requires the school district not to count non-participating students for the purposes of securing funds under the free lunch program.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 700
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to provide universal schools meals to commonwealth virtual schools.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Danillo Sena of 37 th Middlesex
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71: 94 pertains to commonwealth virtual schools.

SUMMARY

Amends MGL 71:94 by inserting a new subsection, v, that requires commonwealth virtual schools to make free lunches available to all students. Language requires virtual schools to adopt the federal Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2, pursuant to section 72A or other applicable federal provisions, including, but not limited to, the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296. Requires DESE to reimburse the Virtual schools on funding not covered by federal programs.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No.586
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to type 1 diabetes informational materials for the parents and guardians of students.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Jessica Giannino of 16 th Suffolk.
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	These bills all relate to diabetes: H652, H671, and H673.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>SUMMARY</u>	<p>The bill requires DESE and DPH to develop informational materials for the parents and guardians of students on type 1 diabetes. Requires by January 1, 2026, the school district and governing body of a charter school to make the type 1 diabetes informational materials accessible in writing to the parent or guardian of a student when the student is first enrolled in elementary school and again upon a child's entry into grade 6.</p>

**Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 673/ Senate, No. 363
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act improving students' access to life saving treatments/ An Act increasing access to emergency diabetes management medication.
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Edward R. Philips of Sharon Senate Barry Finegold (Second Essex and Middle Sex)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.552 of the 2023-2024 session; redrafted to H.4420: House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:54B requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to promulgate regulations governing the administration of medications in schools. School districts may not prohibit a student from possessing and self-administering asthma inhalers, epinephrine, enzyme supplements, glucose monitoring tests, or insulin delivery systems, provided they have the relevant condition.
<u>SUMMARY</u>	This bill amends MGL 71:54B by requiring DPH to promulgate regulations for the emergency administration of glucagon by trained members of the school staff when a nurse is not present and the student exhibits symptoms of severe hypoglycemia within 180 days of the passage of this act.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 671
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to undesignated glucagon rescue therapies in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Edward R. Philips of Sharon
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.556 of 2023-2024 session: Attached to H4420: Referred favorably to House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by adding a new section pertaining to the allowance and use of undesignated glucagon rescue therapies when necessary for potentially severe hypoglycemic reactions. It requires school districts to obtain a standing order of ready-to-use undesignated glucagon rescue therapy and provides guidance on its maintenance and application. It further provides exemptions from liability for health care providers and schools, and lists required communications immediately after administration of undesignated glucagon.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 652 / Senate, No. 342
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act providing for diabetes management in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Frank A. Moran of Lawrence Senator Sal N. DiDomenico of Middlesex and Suffolk
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.652 of 2023-2024 session; Attached to H4420: Referred favorably to House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:54B pertains to Administration of medications in school settings; regulations.

SUMMARY

This bill would insert language in MGL 71:54B to allow a school nurse or physician to delegate authority to a trained health assistant to administer the treatment of low blood sugar and monitor symptoms of students with type 1 diabetes. It would require parenteral medication to be delivered by a licensed school nurses to deliver. It would allow a licensed school nurse to administer glucose monitoring tests and insulin delivery systems in a classroom if deemed appropriate by the student's family and physician. Requires all school staff will be trained to administer treatment for low blood sugar and monitoring symptoms yearly. classroom."

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 645
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act allowing the administration of antiseizure medication on school busses
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Joseph McKenna of 18 th Worcester.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:54B pertains to the administration of medication in a school setting.

SUMMARY

Amend MGL 71:54B by adding in a paragraph that allows a parent or guardian of a child with a seizure disorder to allow school bus drivers or monitors to administer prescription medication in the case of an emergency. Requires the school to notify the bus service provider of the child and provide a copy of the letter or prescription the family provided from the primary care physician. Requires the school district to make available informational and practical training to bus drivers or monitors on symptoms of seizure emergencies.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 635 / Senate, No. 422
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relating to seizure disorders in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose Senator Patrick O'Connor (First Plymouth and Norfolk)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.533 of session 2023-2024: Study
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

This bill would add section MGL 71:99 to require every school to have at least one employee trained to administer seizure rescue medication or electrical stimulation. It would require school personnel to collaborate with parents on an annual seizure action plan. It would require public schools to provide age-appropriate seizure education program. Lastly, it would provide immunity from civil damages for personnel acting in good faith to provide these services.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 644
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act updating the administration of medications in schools' statute to include epilepsy.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Joseph McKenna of 18 th Worcester.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:54B pertains to the administration of medication in schools.

SUMMARY

Amends MGL 71:54B by inserting language that forbids schools from prohibiting students with seizure disorders from possessing and administering prescription anti-seizure medication in accordance with DPH regulation.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER House, No. 590

TITLE An Act relative to emergency stock supply of epinephrine in schools

SPONSOR(S) Representative Kenneth I. Gordon of Bedford

PRIOR HISTORY H.490 of the 2023-2024 session; Reported favorably to H4420: HWM .

CURRENT LAW MGL 69:8A pertains to school medical emergency response plans; model plan.
MGL 71:54B pertains to administration of medications in school settings.

SUMMARY

This bill would amend MGL 69:8A to require school emergency response plans to include training on the administration of epi-pens. It would also amend MGL 71:54B to require schools to stock epinephrine available to all students. Anyone who administers epinephrine in good faith to a student would be shielded from liability. Funded by an assessment on health insurance payors.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 611

TITLE

An Act relative to emergency stock supply of epinephrine in schools

SPONSOR(S)

Representative Bradley H. Jones, Jr., of North Reading

PRIOR HISTORY

H507 of the 2021-2022 session; Committee redraft to H4420: House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

MGL 71:54B pertains to administration of medications in school settings.

SUMMARY

This bill would amend MGL 71:54B to require schools to stock epinephrine available to all students. Anyone who administers epinephrine in good faith to a student would be shielded from liability. DPH and DESE would be required to apply for federal funding or reimbursement and to ask drug manufactures for free epinephrine.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 583
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to improve student and staff attendance and performance by ensuring air quality in schools throughout the commonwealth.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Sean Garballey of Arlington
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	Another bill on air quality S351 by Senator Fattman.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	N/A

SUMMARY

Requires schools to ensure air quality monitoring to be utilized correctly, and that all schools must install monitoring systems and begin collecting data on AQM by January 1st, 2026.
Requires all data from any AQM system to be made available publicly.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 554
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing comprehensive school counseling programs
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representatives Carol A. Doherty of Taunton and Ryan M. Hamilton of Methuen
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.465 of session 2023-2024: Attached to 4567: reported favorably to House Rules: released to House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by inserting language requiring each public school district to develop and implement a school counseling program that adheres to the Massachusetts Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs and ensures all pre-K to 12th grade students receive school counseling services from licensed school counselors. The Model requires school counselors to spend at least 80% of their time providing direct or indirect services to students, and also requires districts to maintain a 1:250 student-to-counselor ratio.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 557
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act expanding reasons for excused absences from school to include mental or behavioral health
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Carol A. Doherty of Taunton
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.467 of the 2023-2024 session; attached to H4567: reported favorably to House Rules: Released to House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 76:1 pertains to school attendance requirements and exceptions.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 76:1 by inserting language which allows schools to excuse absences due to mental health symptoms in a similar manner as for physical health symptoms. This includes any documentation requirements and requires schools to accept documentation from licensed mental health care professionals. It further requires students who are absent due to mental or behavioral health to be offered the opportunity to meet with a certified school counselor upon return to school but not be required to do so.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 598

TITLE

An Act relative to the promotion of mental health education

SPONSOR(S)

Representatives Natalie M. Higgins of Leominster

PRIOR HISTORY

H.497 of the 2023-2024 session; Attached to H4576: Reported favorably to house rules: discharged to House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

MGL 71:3 pertains to physical education.

MGL 76:1 pertains to school attendance requirements and exceptions.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:3 to include mental health education with the physical education requirement. It also amends MGL 76:1 to require school committees approving a private school to consider the incorporation of a mental health education program within their evaluation of the private school's overall instruction in all studies required by law.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 595
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act providing for mental health professionals in public schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Ryan M. Hamilton of Methuen
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.494 of 2023-2024 session: Sent to Study
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools in the Commonwealth.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by adding after Section 53A a new section, Section 53A½, which requires each school district to appoint one or more full-time school psychologists and one or more full-time school social workers to provide mental health services to all K-12 students attending a public school in the district. It also describes the scope of the duties for each role. The bill further requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to promulgate rules or regulations necessary to carry out this section.

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 716
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to improving mental health in schools.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Joshua Tarsky of 13 th Norfolk.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

Amend MGL 71 by adding a new section, 102. This section requires schools to employ a minimum number determined by DESE of school adjustment counselors, and requires DESE to provide funding for additional adjustment counselors for schools without sufficient funds to meet this requirement w. Requires DESE to promulgate regulations for the minimum number of school adjustment counselors, which must include the number of student enrolled in a school, a schools title 1 status, and any other circumstances detailed by a school committee of a district. The regulations must be promulgated by DESE by February 26 2026, and the requirement will take effect August 1, 2026.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 708
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act requiring a mental health wellness examination for all school children
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Priscila S. Sousa of Framingham
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.585 of session 2023-2024:Study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	<p>MGL 29:2GGGGG pertains to the Behavioral Health Outreach, Access and Support Trust Fund.</p> <p>MGL 32A:32 pertains to definitions related to, and coverage for, annual mental health wellness examinations.</p> <p>MGL 71 pertains to public education in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>MGL 111:185A pertains to rules of instruction, test cards, and other appliances related to health examinations and medical care in schools.</p>

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by adding a new section, Section 57B, which requires school committees or other school health oversight authorities to have each public school student undergo (a) mental health wellness examination(s), with corresponding physical records kept in accordance with MGL 111:185A. Private schools that do not perform these examinations must inform their students' parents and guardians. Religious exemptions are allowed within the bounds of existing laws regarding communicable diseases.

Health professionals administering a mental health wellness examination in response to a child having concerns must share a copy of the report with school health personnel and a parent or guardian of the child.

The bill also amends MGL 29:2GGGGG by adding language which allows the Behavioral Health Outreach, Access and Support Trust Fund to be used to provide grants for mental health wellness examination in underserved school districts.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 530/ Senate, No. 382
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act requiring opioid use disorder education
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Michelle Ciccolo of Lexington Senator John Keenan (Norfolk and Plymouth)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 69 pertains to the Powers and Duties of the department of education. MGL 69:1D pertains to statewide education goals and academic standards.

SUMMARY

Requires the current health education standards established in MGL 69:1D to include an understanding of opioid use disorder. Requires a school district to incorporate the opioid use disorder education standards within there existing curriculum. Allows DESE to apply for federal, state, or other funding to implement this section.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 640
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act Jason Flat Law to prevent to prevent (sic) teen suicide
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative John Marsi of Dudley and Representative Paul Frost of Auburn.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:95 pertains to Suicide awareness and prevention training

SUMMARY

This bill requires suicide prevention training to be taught to all student from 6th grade until 12th grade and licensed school personnel each academic year. Requires DESE in consultation with DPH, DDS, DMH, and other stakeholders to develop a list of approved materials to fulfill the requirements in this section. The list must be reviewed and updated at least every 3 years. Requires each school district to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. This policy shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Requires “postvention” to include school counseling to students that have made a suicide attempt or have reported ideation. This counseling must consist of regular check-ins.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 672

TITLE

An Act relative to suicide prevention in schools

SPONSOR(S)

Representative Edward R. Philips of Sharon

PRIOR HISTORY

H.555 of the 2023-2024 session; accompanied new draft H.4576 and reported favorably; Referred to House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

This bill would require school health care providers and any applicants for educator licenses to receive at least 2 hours of evidence based in-service suicide awareness and prevention training every other year. Requires new hires receive such training within 30 days.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 699
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to strengthen suicide prevention in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Danillo A. Sena of Acton
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.575 of the 2023-2024 session; Attached to H4576: House Ways and Means.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71:95 pertains to reimbursement aid to municipalities for costs incurred for federal military reservation students.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71:95 by requiring public school districts and Commonwealth charter schools to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to all licensed school personnel every year instead of every three years and to new hires within 60 days of being hired instead of within six months. It further amends MGL 71:95 by requiring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to adopt rules that require all public school districts and Commonwealth charter schools to adopt a policy to identify and develop partnerships with community organizations and agencies for referring students to health, mental health, substance use, and social support services.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 544/ Senate, No. 369
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to establish the Whole Child Grant Program
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Majorie Decker of Cambridge Senator Adam Gomez (Hampden)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 29 pertains to state finances MGL 71 pertains to public school

SUMMARY

Calls for the creation of Whole Child Grant Program Fund. States that the Whole Child Grant Fund is required to be used to fund the Whole Child Grant Program. Requires DESE to establish the Whole Child Grant Program. Language includes for what the funding can be used for in the grant including the hiring of school nurses, counselors, psychologist, and providing professional development to school educators. To receive a grant school district must submit a plan that details how the grant funds will be allocated.

Requires DESE to disburse funds to school districts with the following formula: \$150 per pupil for districts with 20% or more students designated as low income, \$100 per pupil in district which 10% to 20% of students designated as low income, and \$50 per pupil for districts in which less than 10% of students are designated as low income.

**Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary**

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 545
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to MassHealth reimbursements in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representatives Marjorie Decker of Cambridge
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	Bill S.794 of 2023-2024 session; Referred to Committee of healthcare finance; Reported favorably to SWM.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 44:72 pertains to federal funds for reimbursable medical expenses.

SUMMARY

Amends MGL 44:72 by replacing “local government entity” with “local educational authority”, allowing for schools to apply for MassHealth reimbursements, allowing the educational authorities to apply for federal reimbursements. Requires the local educational agency to implement a plan to obtain the MassHealth reimbursement of school-based services, administrative activities, and any other medical benefits provided by local educational agency to any school age child.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 551
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act Relative to Parental Rights in Education
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative David DeCoste of Norwell
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.458 of session 2023-2024: Study.
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

Requires a school committee of every city, town, regional district, or vocational school district to develop a procedure for notifying a student's parents or guardian if there is a change in a student service related to the student mental, emotional, or physical health. Prohibits schools from adopting procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent or guardians about a student mental, emotional, or physical health. Allows for school personnel to withhold information if they have reasonable cause to believe that disclosure would result in abuse or neglect.

Prohibits instruction on sexual orientation or gender identify from occurring from kindergarten until Grade 3. Requires that at the beginning of the school year to notify parents on each healthcare service offered at the school, and the option for parents to withhold consent or decline any of the services. Requires schools' districts to adopt procedures for a parent or guardian to notify a principal regarding concerns under this section, and the concern must be resolved within 7 days after the notification by parent. Outline procedure of the concern is not resolved by the school district. A parent may appeal to the commissioner of Education.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 565 / Senate, No. 311
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing the Massachusetts farm to school program.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Patricia Duffy of Holyoke/ Representative Andres Vargas of Haverhill Senator Joanne Comerford (Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 69 pertains to the powers and duties of the Board of Education.

SUMMARY

This bill Amends MGL 69 by inserting a new section that outline several different Farm to school programs to be used to incentivize the use of local food in birth through 12 education spaces. The first is Massachusetts Farm to School Program, which must include a grant program and a local food incentive. The program must work to build the capacity of birth through 12 institutions to purchase ingredients grown in Massachusetts or other New England states. DESE must create an advisory committee to advice on the development and administration of the Farm to School Program. Includes a list of members that the committee must include. The second mentioned in the establishment of a Farm to School Grant Program. Require the grant program provides funding for the following: adequate kitchen equipment, training for kitchen staff in preparing fresh meals, training for educators and other school staff in adding or integrating food system lessons into existing curriculum, programing for curricular and extracurricular activities, and infrastructure for classroom projects related to food literacy.

The bill also creates a Massachusetts Local Food Incentive program to reimburse school food authorities for money spent to purchase food from local farms, fishers, and producers. Participants in the program will be reimbursed by 1/3 of the funds spent on purchases from regional vendors. Requires DESE to confirm the place of origin of the products. Requires DESE on or before January 31 each year to submit a report on the Massachusetts Farm to School programs activities and impact. To write this report, DESE must develop a survey on the grant program and the local food incentive to be distributed annually to participating in school districts and early education programs to collect data to document the impacts of the program and any challenges, including additional staffing or training needs.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 572

TITLE

An Act relative to cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator education in public schools.

SPONSORS

Representative Carole Fiola of Fall River.

SIMILAR MATTERS

CPR Related Bills: H750, S447, S456. And H556.

PRIOR HISTORY

N/A

CURRENT LAW

MGL 69 pertains to the Powers and duties of the department of Elementary and Secondary Education/

MGL 71:1 pertains to the Maintenance of schools and twelve month school year.

SUMMARY

Requires that DESE to establish a health education grant program. Amends MGL 71:1 by inserting language in the first paragraph that would require all high school students in order to graduate to study and demonstrate a general knowledge on CPR and the use of automatic external defibrillators.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER House, No. 619/ House, No. 600/ Senate, No. S334

TITLE An Act relative to youth skin health.

SPONSOR(S) Representative Patrick Kearney of Scituate.

Representative Kate Hogan of Stow.

Senator Julian Cyr (Cape and Islands)

PRIOR HISTORY S.258 of the 2021-2022 session; study.

CURRENT LAW MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

This bill would amend MGL 71 by adding a new section, Section 98, that would allow students, parents, or school personnel to apply sunscreen without a doctor's note while at school-related events. The sunscreen must be FDA-approved for over-the-counter use. School personnel would not be required to assist students in applying sunscreen and districts may encourage schools to educate students on sun safety precautions.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 635 / Senate, No. 422
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relating to seizure disorders in schools
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose Senator Patrick O'Connor (First Plymouth and Norfolk)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	H.533 of session 2023-2024: Study
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.
<u>NOTES</u>	<p>There is already a MGL71:99 (technically, two separate ones) that is unrelated to this text.</p> <p>There were no changes made from last session; this is the first year a mirror bill is present in the senate.</p>

SUMMARY

This bill would add section MGL 71:99 to require every school to have at least one employee trained to administer seizure rescue medication or electrical stimulation. It would require school personnel to collaborate with parents on an annual seizure action plan. It would require public schools to provide age-appropriate seizure education program. Lastly, it would provide immunity from civil damages for personnel acting in good faith to provide these services.

Joint Committee on Education
Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 710
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing mandatory school emergency response drills in the Commonwealth.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Priscila Sousa of 6 th Middlesex.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

Amend MGL 71 by adding a new section, S38S. It begins by expanding the definition of school for this section to be both private and public schools within the Commonwealth. Requires school administrators to establish critical incident responses protocols for active shooters during lunch, assemblies, class switching periods, and fire alarms. Requires schools to have 2 emergency response drills, one which must occur during the first month of school, and one 1 safety lesson for student and staff which also must occur within the first month of school. In addition to the one lesson, and 2 drills of a school has a summer session they must provide an additional 1 drill of a school, and 1 safety lesson.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 750
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act providing hands only CPR training and the use of defibrillators.
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Thomas Walsh of 12 th Essex.
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	There are multiple bills relating to CPR education and requirements: H572, S447, S456, and H556.
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	N/A
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 69 pertains to the powers and duties of the department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SUMMARY

Bill requires the creation of CPR in the School Fund to provide incentives to school districts that require CPR training to graduate. The incentives should be distributed as mini grants, and subsidies, district with a high percentage of low income students should be given priority in the grants. Requires the Psychomotor Skill-Based hands only CPR training to be based on the national Guidelines for CPR and ECC.

Joint Committee on Education

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 556/ Senate, No. 447
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act Providing CPR and AED Education for All AKA the CPR and AED Education for All Act/An Act providing hands only CPR training and the use of defibrillators.
<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	Representative Carol A. Doherty of Taunton Senator Michael F. Rush (Norfolk and Suffolk)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	House, No.464 of 2023-2024 session: Study Senate, No 351 of 2023-2024 session: Study
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	MGL 71 pertains to public schools.

SUMMARY

This bill amends MGL 71 by adding a new section - Section 2D. The section requires each school district to provide instruction in hands-only CPR and the use of a defibrillator. This instruction will be integrated in the existing physical or health education curriculum for grades 9 through 12. Allows the school to select a no-cost, non-certification instructional program to meet this requirement. Requires all students to take this course to graduate unless exempt by a physician or a parent or guardians submits written objection to the student's participation. Requires the bill to take effect on September 1, 2026.