

CHAIR
MAYOR SUMBUL SIDDIQUI

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
459 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

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ALFRED B. FANTINI
CAROLINE HUNTER
JOSÉ LUIS ROJAS
DAVID J. WEINSTEIN
AYESHA M. WILSON

VICE CHAIR
RACHEL B. WEINSTEIN

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Ariel B. Kennebrew
TEL: 617-349-6620 • FAX: 617-349-6624
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--IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE--

April 4, 2023

ORDERED:

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passage of H.495/S.246, "An Act empowering students and schools to thrive" also known as "the Thrive Act" (see full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD3162> and here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD2067>); and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would end the use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a new process for identifying and supporting schools "designated as in need of comprehensive support and improvement"; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would maintain MCAS assessments and related reporting and accountability requirements to the extent mandated by federal law; and

WHEREAS: The use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement has not catalyzed the closing of opportunity gaps in Massachusetts and the test can be a barrier to graduation for students who do not perform well on standardized tests despite their understanding of a subject; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a modified graduation requirement based on coursework rather than high-stakes standardized testing, and implement a new 'comprehensive support and improvement' system designed to empower local communities to give students the tools and resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a commission to study and make recommendations for a "more authentic and accurate system for assessing students, schools and school districts"; and

WHEREAS: It is recommended that all study commission members, consultants, and scholars be representative of those constituents and communities who bear the brunt of MCAS policy, especially students, parents, and their representative community organizations, using the rubric of Sen. Ayanna Pressley to "Bring the people closest to the pain, closer to the power." now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee supports H.495/S.246, "An Act empowering students and schools to thrive" also known as "the Thrive Act" and will send a copy of this motion to the Cambridge state delegation and Governor Healey.

A true copy:



Attest:

Ariel B. Kennebrew
Executive Secretary to the Cambridge School Committee

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Motion #23-071

cc:
Member Weinstein
Vice Chair Rachel
Member Fantini
Member Hunter
Member Rojas
Member Wilson
Mayor Siddiqui
Superintendent