

HOUSE No. 577

By Ms. St. Fleur of Boston, petition of Marie P. St. Fleur and others that the Department of Education be directed to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent students from dropping out of school. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Marie P. St. Fleur	Kay Khan
Alice K. Wolf	Linda Dorcena Forry
Elizabeth A. Malia	Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Barbara A. L'Italien	William Smitty Pignatelli
John F. Quinn	Patricia D. Jehlen
Stephen R. Canessa	Richard T. Moore
John P. Fresolo	Thomas P. Kennedy
Anthony J. Verga	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.
Benjamin Swan	Susan C. Tucker
Tom Sannicandro	Bruce E. Tarr
Gloria L. Fox	Martha M. Walz
Ruth B. Balsler	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Willie Mae Allen	Stephen L. DiNatale
William Lantigua	Christine E. Canavan
William N. Brownsberger	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO PREVENT STUDENTS FROM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.

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

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
2 the contrary, the department of education shall, no later than
3 December 31, 2007, develop and implement a comprehensive
4 strategy to provide assistance to school districts and schools to help
5 address the student dropout problem in public schools, particularly
6 those within urban and rural areas. In the development of the
7 strategy, the department shall engage public and private entities who
8 are responsible for servicing these students. The strategy shall build
9 upon existing programs and initiatives that have proven successful in

10 preventing students from dropping out of school. The department
11 shall take into consideration, at a minimum, the following:—

12 (1) Analyses of annual district and school dropout data; tracking
13 of students; risk factor identification;

14 (2) Any local, state and federal resources and programs,
15 including, but not limited to, extended school services; literacy;
16 early intervention; family resource and youth service centers; mental
17 health services; alternative education services; drug and alcohol pre-
18 vention programs; school-to-career programs; school safety grants;
19 criminal justice programs; social service programs; and other rele-
20 vant programs and services that could be used in a multi-dimen-
21 sional effort;

22 (3) Comprehensive student programs and services that include,
23 but are not limited to, comprehensive student evaluation, counseling,
24 mentoring, extra instructional support, tutoring and other educational
25 strategies for elementary, middle, and high school students who are
26 demonstrating little or no success in school, who have poor atten-
27 dance, or who are affected by other risk factors that contribute to the
28 likelihood of their dropping out of school, as well as home visita-
29 tions, and parental training for the parents or legal guardians of such
30 students; and

31 (4) Evaluation procedures to measure progress within school dis-
32 tricts and schools in eliminating the problem of students dropping
33 out of school.

34 The department shall serve as the lead agency for providing assis-
35 tance to districts in the development and implementation of dropout
36 prevention strategies and plans. Agencies or other public entities that
37 the department determines are necessary to assist in this effort shall
38 provide such assistance.

39 The department shall file any comprehensive strategy developed
40 under this section with the joint committee on education, arts and
41 humanities.