

AN INITIATIVE PETITION FOR A LAW TO REMOVE MCAS PERFORMANCE AS A CONDITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority,

SECTION 1. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be amended by STRIKING the second and third sentences of Paragraph (i):

“Satisfaction of the requirements of the competency determination shall be a condition for high school graduation. If the particular student's assessment results for the tenth grade do not demonstrate the required level of competency, the student shall have the right to participate in the assessment program the following year or years.”

SECTION 2. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be amended by ADDING the following as the new second and third sentences of Paragraph (i):

“Satisfaction of the requirements of competency determination for high school graduation shall be limited only to participation in the assessment program without any requirement for minimum demonstrated level of performance. No school or school district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be permitted to use any student’s performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams, or any state-wide or district-wide academic assessments, including alternative competency portfolios, to deny that student his/her/their high school diploma who has fulfilled local and/or district graduation requirements for number of class credits, satisfactory grades and regular school attendance.”

SECTION 3. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be amended by ADDING the following as the new fourth, fifth and sixth sentences of Paragraph (i):

“Any student who has demonstrated the minimum level of competency (as defined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) after participating in the assessment program in the tenth grade shall have achieved the determination of competency requirement for high school graduation. If the particular student's assessment results for the tenth grade do not demonstrate the minimum level of competency, the student shall be required to participate in the assessment program a second time in either the eleventh or twelfth grades. Any student who has NOT demonstrated the minimum level of competency shall ALSO have achieved the determination of competency requirement for high school graduation if he/she/they participated in the assessment program at least twice if entering a Massachusetts secondary school in the ninth or tenth grades, or at least once if entering in the eleventh or twelfth grades.”

SECTION 4. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws I shall be amended by ADDING the following as a new Paragraph (iv):

“Any former Massachusetts high school student, who was previously denied a high school diploma due solely to having failed the former competency determination shall have the right to request and receive his/her/their high school diploma if they had fulfilled local and/or district requirements for number of class credits, satisfactory grades and regular school attendance at the time of, or since the time of, their designated high school graduation.”

Original	S.E.S.	CBJ	AP	ZJF
Petitioner	(aldb)	REJ	gmc	SAM
Initials:	WSB	FML	Ch	Wme

SECTION 5. Section 1D of Chapter 69 of the Massachusetts General Laws shall be amended by ADDING the following as a new Paragraph (v):

“No distinction, indication or annotation shall be made on a student’s high school diploma with respect to his/her/their performance on the MCAS. A student’s performance results on the MCAS, or any state-wide or district-wide assessment, shall not be included or released as part of the student’s “official high school transcript” or record without the express written permission of the student.”

SECTION 6. To the extent that the provisions of any of these sections conflict with any provision in the Massachusetts General Laws or the Education Reform Act of 1993, the provisions in these sections shall control and take effect immediately.

Original Petitioners:

We have personally reviewed the final text of this Initiative Petition, fully subscribe to its contents, and agree to be one of the original signers of the petition. We have also signed and/or initialed each page.

Full Name/Signature	Address, Town of Residence	Date
Shelley E. Scroggs	7 Conestoga Rd Lexington, MA 02421	6-28-23
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[unclear] Ellen [unclear]	76 Williams St Arlington MA 02476	6/30/23
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[unclear] Chris Kourey	1312 Trillium Circle Acton MA 01720	7/12/23
Barry J. J. [unclear]	47 Boeske Ave Maynard, MA 01754	7/14/23
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Verly Miller [unclear]	125 Brooks St MEDFORD, MA 02155	7/16/23