

A RESOLUTION OF THE [insert city/town] SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUPPORTING AN ACT EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS TO THRIVE (THRIVE ACT)

WHEREAS, Massachusetts students deserve a system of educational accountability and improvement that considers the whole child, and focuses on giving students and educators the tools and resources students need to succeed and thrive; and

WHEREAS, local families, students, educators, and their democratically-elected representatives know best what our local schools need; and

WHEREAS, the state's role should be to support local schools in offering the evidence-based programs and supports that will help students thrive, and to set standards that local schools can help students achieve; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts' state takeover law and the state's high school graduation requirement based on MCAS have created disruptive and harmful learning environments for students, especially Black and Brown students, English language learners, and students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, high-poverty schools that primarily serve low-income students of color have been and continue to be exclusive targets for state takeovers; and

WHEREAS, the state takeover law has failed to produce sustainable improvements in student outcomes (even according to the state's own metrics), while preventing local students, parents, educators, and community members, especially families of Black and Brown children, from having a voice and engagement in how their local schools are run; and

WHEREAS, the state's requirement for graduation based on MCAS scores has deprived thousands of students from receiving their diploma and disrupted their futures, while encouraging a narrow focus on test prep in schools that has hurt all students; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts is one of only eight states in the country that still ties its standardized test to graduation, down from 27 states in the early 2000s, making Massachusetts an outlier in this regard; and

WHEREAS, these top-down, harmful educational approaches are increasing racial inequities in our schools, rather than fixing them, and

WHEREAS, our students deserve comprehensive student-centered support systems, guided by democratic control, not more top-down unaccountable bureaucratic disruption with no record of success; and

WHEREAS, our students deserve a better system of assessment and improvement, guided by holistic assessments that measure a wide range of competencies, capabilities, and real-world skills; and

WHEREAS, legislation titled An Act Empowering Students and Schools To Thrive (H.495 and S.246), known as the Thrive Act, would replace the state's ineffective approach to educational assessment and improvement with policies that will help all students to succeed and thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Thrive Act would create a new assessment and support system that adheres to federal law and achieves the right balance between local democratic control and State oversight; and

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that [Name of Elected Body] supports the Thrive Act, and instructs the [Clerk, Secretary, etc.] to send a letter to our local legislative delegation and Governor Maura Healey to support the Thrive Act.