

RESOLUTION REGARDING HIGH STAKES TESTING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the Somerville School Committee has previously and repeatedly taken the position of opposing high stakes testing including the MCAS; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively and disproportionately affected students with learning disabilities, students of lower socioeconomic status, ELL students and students who identify as minorities; and

WHEREAS, the social and emotional trauma both individually and collectively has yet to be truly realized in the students who have experienced the shutdown of their local school buildings and separations from their peers and supportive adults; and

WHEREAS, the students of Somerville have already missed valuable face to face instructional opportunities with their teachers and would benefit from focusing on those important instructional opportunities and social emotional supports; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it:

RESOLVED: that the Somerville School Committee rejects the calls for the students of 2022 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing to be required to make it up during the 2020-2021 school year or ever. We demand those students be held harmless for not taking the MCAS and that their graduation requirements shall be determined by locally controlled voices of the School Committee and School Administration within the remaining graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the Somerville School Committee calls for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020-2021 school year so all students can benefit from their time being focused on direct instruction and we urge the legislature to enact a moratorium on high stakes testing of three years; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: that copies of this resolution be shared with the Somerville legislative delegation, the Commonwealth's constitutional officers, and otherwise widely distributed.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: November 2, 2020

By: The Somerville School Committee