

Resolution in Support of the THRIVE Act

WHEREAS, access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right written into the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS, an effective public education program meets the needs of students who present a variety of abilities and learning styles; and

WHEREAS, a successful system of public education nurtures and supports students and offers opportunities for growth along a continuum that begins in preschool and extends through higher education; and

WHEREAS, the goal of public education is to teach students how to be critical thinkers, engaged citizens and lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of high-stakes standardized testing through the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System has undermined the most important goals of public education; and

WHEREAS, the punitive use of MCAS has restricted curriculum and narrowed the focus of education in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, MCAS testing has unjustly targeted communities with underfunded public schools for state takeovers that have failed to improve student performance by any measure; and

WHEREAS, using MCAS testing as a high-school graduation requirement has prevented or delayed countless students from earning a diploma, either interrupting or derailing education or career plans;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerville School Committee urges the state Legislature to pass the THRIVE Act, ending the use of MCAS tests as a graduation requirement and for purposes of placing school districts or individual schools into state receivership; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED that Massachusetts develop an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS tests.

VOTED: Unanimously

DATE: May 22, 2023

BY: The Somerville School Committee