



#26-178

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WHEREAS: Passing the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System was a high school graduation requirement beginning in 2003, and between 2003 and 2019, Massachusetts saw virtually no improvement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress – either in overall scores or in reducing test score gaps; and

WHEREAS: In November 2024, Massachusetts voters ended the use of the MCAS as a requirement for high school graduation; and

WHEREAS: Following that vote, a K-12 Statewide Graduation Council was convened and has issued recommendations for new graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS: A [Massachusetts Association of School Committees position paper](#) on a substantially similar draft of proposed graduation requirements opposed key elements, including state-administered end-of-course assessments to replace the state-administered assessment already rejected by voters, as well as the completion of government student financial aid forms. The MASC also supported some elements of the proposed graduation requirements only if implemented with local flexibility and/or full funding; and

WHEREAS: The MASC called for full state funding of capstones or portfolios "because they are better aligned to the Graduation Council's own Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate." Further, "The state should provide frameworks, model rubrics, guidance, professional development, and funding. Implementation and grading, however, must remain local. Capstones and portfolios should strengthen the diploma and deepen student learning while preserving local authority and flexibility over how students demonstrate mastery."; and

WHEREAS: That [Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate](#) calls for students to finish high school as Academically Prepared, Critical Problem-Solvers, Self-Aware Navigators, Intentional Collaborators, Effective Communicators, and Responsible Decision-Makers – all important aspirations that would call for continued educational excellence across Massachusetts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee endorses the Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate and the May 2026 MASC position paper on The Graduation Standard; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee opposes the K-12 Statewide Graduation Council's call to limit local flexibility and override the will of the voters by replacing one high-stakes state-controlled assessment with another; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge School Committee calls on the state to fully fund any new graduation requirements, while respecting the Massachusetts tradition of local flexibility.