

# 2025-2026 Legislative Agenda



## **H.596/S.426 | *An Act to Ensure that All Students Are Prepared for Future Success***

**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro) | Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow)

**The passage of Question 2 in November 2024** made clear that the people of Massachusetts are demanding a public education system that maintains the Commonwealth's high standards, is centered on real teaching and learning, and that prepares all students to thrive upon high school graduation and throughout their lives.

*An Act to Ensure that All Students Are Prepared for Future Success* is the next step in realizing this vision for public education in Massachusetts by expanding access to the rigorous MassCore program of study and creating a special commission to study and make recommendations on more holistic and accurate methods of assessing students that align with the skills and knowledge that Massachusetts wants our students to learn and develop. Specifically, this legislation will:

- **Require MassCore as a statewide program of study** for high school students beginning with ninth graders in the 2027-28 school year. Currently, 83.7% of high school students already complete MassCore, which is highly rigorous and consists of 22 total units of English, mathematics, science, history, a world language, the arts and additional elective courses.
- **Ensure that MassCore courses continue to be aligned to the Commonwealth's high educational standards**, while also making clear that local school districts and educators continue to be able to use their expertise and professional autonomy in designing and administering teaching that is in line with those standards.
- **Establish a comprehensive process to implement MassCore** that will include soliciting public input; developing waivers by which certain students may be exempt from MassCore; ensuring that students have flexibility in selecting courses that satisfy MassCore; and requiring the Commonwealth to provide the funding necessary for school districts to implement MassCore before the new requirement can take effect.
- **Create a MassCore Advisory Council** consisting of educators, parents, students and community members with expertise in public education that will work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on all matters related to MassCore implementation and administration.
- **Convene a Special Commission on assessments** to identify the skills and knowledge that Massachusetts wants our students to develop and examine ways to more accurately and effectively assess students. The commission will engage in a robust public process as it completes its work, including by holding at least five public meetings and administering a statewide survey.

Please contact MTA Government Relations if you have any questions or require any additional information.  
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