

SENATE No. 428

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to school library standards.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Judith A. Garcia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>

SENATE No. 428

By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 428) of Jacob R. Oliveira, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Lindsay N. Sabadosa, David Paul Linsky and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to school library standards. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to school library standards.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 1T the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 1U. School Library Standards

4 As used in this section, (i) the term “school library standards” means the most recent
5 edition of academic standards for school library media programs developed by the American
6 Association of School Librarians (AASL) and endorsed for the commonwealth by the
7 Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA); (ii) the term “effective school library
8 program” means school library programs that are staffed by certified school librarians, offer
9 equitable access to a collection and other resources for all students, and provides personalized
10 learning environments for students within

instruction time and across the school day; (iii) the term “schools” means all public schools, charter schools, private day schools, residential schools, and collaborative schools established and recognized under this Title.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 1D, the department shall adopt AASL and MSLA school library standards that promote effective school library programs, including, but not limited to: (a) a well-rounded grade-appropriate collection that supports the curriculum as well as independent reading and inquiry; (b) the teaching of information literacy and research skills for students in kindergarten to grade 12; (c) furthers reading proficiency and competencies for all students; and (d) integrates learning technologies across the curriculum. Pursuant to the provisions of section 1E, the commissioner shall guide school committees or boards of trustees in implementation of standards and the development of effective school library programs. School committees or board of trustees may incorporate the school library standards into existing curricula including, but not limited to, English language arts, history and social sciences, and technology.

The department shall require a study by the department relative to the implementation of the school library standards beginning in the third year after the enactment of said standards. Subject to appropriation, the department shall conduct a study in each third year following the initial study, including a study of employment of school librarians and staff and the type of school library programs being offered in schools to students. The study shall include a report to the public via department communication platforms on best practices and recommended improvements to effective school library programs for all students.