

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, ERIN J. MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, PEPÉN, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING MASSCORE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT SUPPORTS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has established the MassCore framework intended to ensure that students graduate from high school prepared for college, career, and civic life; *and*

WHEREAS, The MassCore framework includes four years of English and mathematics; three years of science and social studies; two years of world language; one year of the arts; and additional electives, with flexibility for vocational, alternative, English learner, and special education pathways; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools adopted MassCore as a district graduation requirement in 2021 with a multi-year implementation plan, informed by research showing improved postsecondary outcomes for students who complete the MassCore curriculum; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent Boston Public Schools data indicate that a significant share of current seniors are not yet on track to meet MassCore requirements, with disproportionate impacts on high-needs students, students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students, and may result in the students who have not completed these requirements being prevented from graduating this June; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools has stated that MassCore completion rates may continue to rise as students complete coursework during the remainder of the academic year, summer programming, or alternative pathways; *and*

WHEREAS, Questions remain regarding how MassCore requirements are impacted by school schedules, course availability, staffing, collective bargaining agreements, exemptions, alternative programs, and the supports provided to students who are at risk of delayed graduation; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council seeks to better understand the implementation, challenges, flexibilities, and student supports associated with MassCore in order to support Boston Public Schools in ensuring equitable access to graduation and

postsecondary readiness. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to receive testimony from Boston Public Schools regarding the implementation of MassCore graduation requirements, with the goal of fostering shared understanding, transparency, and collaborative problem-solving. Representatives from Boston Public Schools will be invited to discuss the current status of MassCore implementation, plans to improve course offerings and increase student supports, and equity and student impact, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed in Council: February 11, 2026