

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



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT IMPLEMENTATION, WAIVERS, AND EQUITY IN
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools adopted a MassCore-based graduation requirement following the removal of MCAS as a statewide graduation requirement, with the stated goal of maintaining rigorous and meaningful academic expectations for all students; and

WHEREAS, Recent reporting indicates that more than one-third of Boston Public Schools seniors are currently not on track to meet the district's new graduation requirements, raising serious concerns about implementation, equity, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Because students who are Black, Latino, English Learners, low-income, and students with disabilities are disproportionately not on track to meet the new graduation requirements, the use of broad waivers without transparent reporting or strategic supports risks obscuring inequitable access rather than addressing it; and

WHEREAS, Waivers granted at scale do not address the underlying causes of students not meeting graduation requirements, including inconsistent access to required coursework, late or uneven academic intervention, and the absence of clear, enforceable implementation standards; and

WHEREAS, Widespread reliance on waivers risks undermining the integrity of graduation standards by masking long-standing and well-documented systemic failures to consistently deliver high-quality instruction and academic preparation to all Boston Public Schools students, despite substantial and sustained financial investment;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to examine the implementation of Boston Public Schools' graduation requirements, including the scope, criteria, and frequency of waivers or exemptions; the equity impacts of graduation requirement implementation and waiver use on Black, Latino, English Learner, low-income students, and students with disabilities; and the transparency, oversight, and support strategies necessary to ensure all students have a genuine and equitable opportunity to meet graduation requirements, with testimony invited from Boston Public Schools, the Boston School Committee, student and family advocates, and other relevant stakeholders.

Filed on: February 11, 2026