



NORWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE



TERESA M. STEWART, CHAIR

MYEV A. BODENHOFER
DAVID R. CATANIA
JOAN GIBLIN, Ph.D.
ANNE MARIE MAZZOLA

NORWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: HIGH STAKES TESTING

DATE: November 18, 2020

TO: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Governor Charlie Baker
Education Secretary James Peyser
Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley
Senate President Karen Spilka
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Joint Education Committee Co-Chair Jason Lewis
Joint Education Committee Co-Chair Alice Peisch

CC: Senator Michael Rush
Representative John Rogers
Norwood Board of Selectmen

Whereas, the COVID-19 Remote Learning Model has negatively and disproportionately affected students with learning disabilities, students of lower socioeconomic status, ELL students and students who identify as minorities; and

Whereas, the social and emotional trauma both individually and collectively has yet to be truly realized in the students who have experienced the shutdown of their local school buildings and separation from their peers and supportive adults: and

Whereas, the students of the Commonwealth have already missed valuable face to face instructional opportunities with teachers and would benefit from focusing on those instructional opportunities and social emotional supports;

Therefore be it resolved that the Norwood School Committee rejects the calls for students of 2022 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing to be required to make it up during the 2020-21 school year or ever. We demand those students be held harmless for not taking the MCAS and that their graduation requirements shall be determined by locally controlled voices of the School Committee and School Administration within the remaining graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Additionally, we call for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year so all students can benefit from their time being focused on direct instruction and we urge the legislature to enact a moratorium on high stakes testing of one year.

Respectfully,

Teresa Marie Stewart, MS, MPH, Chair, Norwood School Committee

Norwood School Committee
Teresa M. Stewart, Chair
Myev A. Bodenhofer, Vice Chair
David R. Catania, Member
Dr. Joan Giblin, Member
Anne Marie Mazzola, Member