

Resolution in Support of the Thrive Act

WHEREAS: access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right written into the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passage of H.495/S.246, “An Act empowering students and schools to thrive” also known as “the Thrive Act”; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would end the use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a new process for identifying and supporting schools “designated as in need of comprehensive support and improvement”; and

WHEREAS: The use of MCAS scores as a graduation requirement has not catalyzed the closing of opportunity gaps in Massachusetts and the test can be a barrier to graduation for students who do not perform well on standardized tests despite their understanding of a subject; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a modified graduation requirement based on coursework rather than high stakes standardized testing, and implement a new ‘comprehensive support and improvement’ system designed to empower local communities to give students the tools and resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS: The Thrive Act would establish a commission to study and make recommendations for a “more authentic and accurate system for assessing students, schools and school districts,”;

Now Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Malden School Committee supports H.495/S.246, “An Act empowering students and schools to thrive” also known as “the THRIVE Act” and urges the state Legislature to pass the THRIVE Act, ending the use of MCAS tests as a graduation requirement and for purposes of placing school districts or individual schools into state receivership.