



An Act to ensure the health and safety of the Commonwealth's students and educators

MTA Legislative Agenda, 2021-2022

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Paul Feeney (D- Foxborough) | Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro) | Rep. Tami Gouveia (D-Acton)

To ensure the health and safety of the Commonwealth's students, educators and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically disrupted the lives of students. Educators understand how difficult remote and hybrid learning are for students and families, and they want nothing more than to be back in their classrooms. Yet we must prioritize in-person education *under safe conditions*.

Currently, internal and external conditions in too many districts do not make safe in-person learning possible. The Commonwealth must ensure that all districts have adequate ventilation systems, COVID-19 surveillance testing programs, and the personal protective equipment needed to make our schools safer. This legislation will help to ensure safe and healthy public schools by:

- Establishing new state ventilation requirements that current and future public school facilities must meet under both normal and pandemic conditions; mandating that school districts conduct assessments of ventilation systems and make needed repairs and upgrades; and creating a mechanism for state funding to support the work that is needed.
- Requiring the state to ensure the operation of weekly COVID-19 pooled surveillance testing programs in all public schools at no cost to districts.
- Directing the state to ensure that all public school staff and students have access to the correct PPE at no cost to districts.
- Creating a special commission to study ventilation and air temperatures in public school facilities.

Passing An Act to ensure the health and safety of the Commonwealth's students and educators

means:

- Ensuring that all of our public schools have adequate ventilation during both normal and pandemic conditions.
- Providing COVID-19 surveillance testing and PPE to school staff and students at no cost to districts.
- Creating safer and healthier conditions for transitioning back to in-person learning.

For more information, please contact the MTA Government Relations Division
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