

By Mr. Matrango of North Adams, petition of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc., Frank J. Matrango and Allan R. Chiocca relative to the essential skills of students. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS OF STUDENTS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The fifteenth paragraph of section 1G of Chapter  
2 15 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding at the end  
3 thereof the following sentence:— However with regard to pro-  
4 ficiency measures, including competency testing, the board powers  
5 may not exceed the provisions of section 87 of chapter 71 of the  
6 General Laws.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amend-  
2 ed by inserting after section 86 the following new section:—

3 *Section 87.* All school systems shall measure the reading, writ-  
4 ing and mathematical proficiencies of their students by the eighth  
5 grade. The criteria for such measures shall be determined by the  
6 school committee. The department of education shall assist school  
7 committees requesting assistance in the development and use of  
8 such measures. The department shall develop measures which  
9 school committees may use in the implementation of this section.  
10 The department shall provide such measures to any school com-  
11 mittee upon request. The school committee shall make a yearly  
12 report to the department of education with regard to the imple-  
13 mentation of this section, including, but not limited to, a descrip-

14 tion of the criteria and measures used by the school system in that  
15 year, provided however that no such report shall include individu-  
16 ally identifiable information. Students who through such measures  
17 do not demonstrate to the school committee satisfactory proficien-  
18 cy in reading, writing and mathematics, shall be given remedial  
19 assistance by the school system, provided such assistance shall not  
20 require the hiring of additional personnel by the school committee.

21 After compliance with section three of chapter thirty A of the  
22 General Laws, the board of education shall not later than the first  
23 day of March in each year adopt interim regulations, for the  
24 implementation of this section. Forthwith upon the adoption of  
25 such regulations, the said board shall file a copy thereof with the  
26 clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, who, with the  
27 approval of the president of the senate and the speaker of the house  
28 of representatives, shall refer such regulations to an appropriate  
29 committee of the general court. Within thirty days after such filing,  
30 the said committee may hold a public hearing on the regulations,  
31 shall issue a report, and file a copy thereof with the board of  
32 education. Said board shall adopt final regulations making such  
33 revisions in the interim regulations as it deems appropriate in view of  
34 such report and shall forthwith file a copy of the regulations with  
35 the chairperson of the committee of the general court to which the  
36 interim regulations were referred and not earlier than thirty days  
37 after the date of such filing, the board of education shall file the  
38 final regulations with the state secretary and the said regulations  
39 shall thereupon take effect.

1 SECTION 3. School systems shall comply with section 87 of  
2 chapter 71 of the General Laws beginning no later than the school  
3 year beginning August, 1982.