

By Mr. Smizik of Brookline, petition of Frank I. Smizik and others relative to rights of access by students, teachers and legal guardians to test scores administered under the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Frank I. Smizik
Ruth B. Balsler

Alice Hanlon Peisch
Patricia D. Jehlen

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS TO DIAGNOSTIC USE OF MCAS TEST SCORES AND TO THE MCAS APPEALS PROCESS.

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

1 Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following new section:—

3 SECTION 1N. Any standardized test of achievement of apti-
4 tude to be administered under the laws of the Commonwealth or
5 any office, board, department, agency or authority thereof to stu-
6 dents in any public school of the Commonwealth, including, but
7 not limited to, the so-called MCAS test, shall be subject to certain
8 requirements enumerated in this section. For the purposes of this
9 section, the term “test” shall mean such a standardized test.

10 (a) All standard accepted answers to test questions that are used
11 in test scoring, together with copies of the actual test booklets and
12 scores of test takers for each question shall be transmitted to par-
13 ents, and or legal guardians, and teacher of test takers prior to
14 public disclosure of scores thereon and within three months after
15 test administration.

16 (b) Written notification of procedures for Score Appeals (set
17 forth in 603 CMR 30.04) and Performance Appeals (as set forth in

18 603 CMR 40.05) must be provided to parents and/or legal
19 guardians of test takers as part of the so-called Guide to the
20 MCAS Parent/Guardian Report.

21 (c) A score or performance appeal on behalf of a student may
22 be filed by the student, parent, legal guardian or superintendent of
23 the school district in which the student is enrolled, or by the
24 superintendent's designee.