

HOUSE No. 695

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jon Santiago

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to physical and social recess in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>3/4/2021</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 695

By Mr. Santiago of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 695) of Jon Santiago and others for legislation relative to physical and social recess in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to physical and social recess in schools.

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. Section 1G of Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:-

3 All children in grades kindergarten through five attending public schools shall receive
4 supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess so that there are at least twenty consecutive
5 minutes of free-play recess per day. As used herein, the term "free-play" means an unstructured
6 environment, but which is supervised by appropriate school personnel or staff. Regulations
7 promulgated by the department may not exclude recess from structured learning time
8 requirements for elementary school children and may not increase the total number of hours
9 required in the school year to meet the provisions of this subsection.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
11 section 4A the following new section:-

12 Section 4B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no public
13 elementary school shall decrease the amount of time it allots and provides to students as recess
14 time designed to allow students to participate in physical and social activities as a result of any
15 changes in standards or curriculum that the school is required to or chooses to adopt. For
16 purposes of this section, “elementary school” shall mean a school providing instruction to grades
17 K through 5, and, where so designated by a school committee prior to the commencement of a
18 school year, may also include a middle school or other intermediate level school providing
19 instruction to grades 5 through 6 or any combination thereof.