

SENATE No. 276

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio, (BY REQUEST)

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 regarding academic acceleration for beyond grade-level students.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julie Eidukonis</i>		
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 276

By Ms. DiZoglio (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 276) of Julie Eidukonis and Dean A. Tran for legislation regarding academic acceleration for beyond grade-level students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act regarding academic acceleration for beyond grade-level 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 board of elementary and secondary education shall establish
2 regulations regarding the use of whole-grade and content-specific academic acceleration in the
3 public schools of the Commonwealth. Said regulations will authorize and provide a framework
4 for school districts to provide access to appropriate curriculum and instruction for students who
5 demonstrate readiness for academic content, skills or understanding at a level beyond the
6 curriculum ordinarily taught to students of a certain age. In developing said regulations, the
7 department shall consider, at a minimum, the following acceleration strategies:

- 8 (a) Single subject acceleration;
- 9 (b) Combined classes (multi-age);
- 10 (c) Online and correspondence courses;
- 11 (d) Concurrent or dual enrollment;

- 12 (e) Curriculum compacting;
- 13 (f) Credit by examination or prior experience;
- 14 (g) Competency/mastery based learning;
- 15 (h) Whole-grade acceleration (one or more);
- 16 (i) Self-paced instruction;
- 17 (j) Mentoring;
- 18 (k) Early graduation;

19 Said regulations shall require the use of a tool, such as the Iowa Acceleration Scale,
20 designed to take personal bias out of the decision-making process when considering a child for
21 acceleration, and to ensure that acceleration decisions are systematic, thoughtful, well-reasoned,
22 and defensible