

**SENATE . . . . . No. 346**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

*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 ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 schools.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Lydia Edwards</i>	<i>Third Suffolk</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>

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By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 346) of Rebecca L. Rausch, Lydia Edwards and James B. Eldridge for legislation to ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 schools. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act ensuring access to mental health supports in K-12 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 1P of Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following subsection:-

3           (h) As used in this section, the term “school mental health professional” shall mean a  
4 school counselor, a school psychologist, or a school social worker. The department of elementary  
5 and secondary education shall provide school mental health professionals at a ratio of at least 1  
6 per 250 students, with a minimum of 1 school mental health professional at each elementary and  
7 each secondary school in the commonwealth. Consistent with applicable scopes of practice,  
8 school mental health professionals may, without limitation, provide mental health services to  
9 students; offer training and resources to school faculty and administrators; provide the school  
10 with culturally competent and linguistically diverse resources to develop and improve the social  
11 and emotional health of students; provide direct social and emotional skill building; assist  
12 students and their families with applying for and obtaining necessary public benefits for which

13 each student and the student's family is eligible; provide services and supports to students who  
14 have an individualized education program; consult and coordinate with other school  
15 professionals on behalf of students and support families accessing community-based resources as  
16 needed and appropriate; and identify food insecurity, homelessness, and other issues affecting  
17 students and make referrals to services with the community, bringing those services into the  
18 school where possible.