

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Harriette L. Chandler*

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to teaching excellence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Harriette L. Chandler*

DISTRICT / ADDRESS:

*First Worcester*

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[Pin Slip]

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act relative to teaching excellence.

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

SECTION 1. The General Court finds that, in our current education system, the ten processes<sup>1</sup> that are designed to support educator quality are frequently disconnected, undermining their collective capacity to support and sustain educator excellence, and depleting resources from schools; and further finds that when the components of this system are organized to align with one another and with a common, research-based, field-tested core of professional knowledge, the cumulative outcome is a more effective, unified and efficient system. That system will produce high expertise teaching for more students, resulting in high levels of learning and closing the achievement gap.

While education is probably the most important profession, there is no agreement currently on a commonly accepted base of professional knowledge and skill such as has long been found advisable and necessary in medicine and law.

The General Court, therefore, directs the Secretary of Education, working with the three departments (Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Higher Education) to complete the details of

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<sup>1</sup> The ten key processes: Preparation; Licensure; Recruitment, hiring, and placement; Comprehensive Induction; Professional development; Supervision and evaluation; Relicensure; Career Ladder; Organizational Structure; Professional Culture

the definition of High Expertise Teaching (HET) by June 2015. Sufficient funding (\$300K) shall be provided to the departments to enable this work to be completed.

Once the work is completed, all three departments under the direction of the Secretary of Education, will convene a task force of stakeholders, including practitioners, to develop the strategic plan for implementation which shall occur at a time to be determined by the Secretary of Education. An annual progress report, due June 1 of each year, is required by the General Court until such time as the Secretary reports full implementation.

The General Court finds that the passage of this act is necessary to address the problem of lack of continuity and connection by encouraging adoption of a validated common core of professional teaching knowledge and skill that impacts all the levers of influence on teacher quality and expertise in a coordinated and sustainable manner.