

To the Education Committee:

I am writing to support the delay in the implementation of the bill concerning high school graduation requirements. There are several important reasons to take this action:

Most school systems are not adequately prepared or funded to implement all the changes included in this legislation. A delay in implementation will provide time for school leaders, other educational professionals, and legislators to closely examine the many changes and new requirements and assess their feasibility and to determine whether or not all of the proposals will meet the needs of all the students in our public schools. One example is the requirement of passing scores for a number of end of course exams as a requirement for graduation. These exams do not yet exist and there are many questions about the role that SBAC testing and / or the new SAT will play in all of this. This is just one example. The educational landscape on the federal and state level is in a state of flux and if we are to meet the needs of the students in our charge we must do so in a planned and programmatic manner. Schools are not currently equipped nor prepared to do so. A delay and reexamination is the best course of action to assure genuine improvements for high schools across our state.

I appreciate your consideration of this point of view.

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