

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz

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 enhancing educational opportunities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Martha M. Walz	8th Suffolk
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 531) of Martha M. Walz and Kay Khan relative to contracts for charter schools and innovation schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act enhancing educational opportunities.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to improve the educational opportunities available throughout the Commonwealth, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Section 1 of chapter 30B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 108, the word "or".

3 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 30B, as so appearing, is hereby further 4 amended by striking out paragraph (34) and inserting in place thereof the following:-

5 (34) a contract made in accordance with section 5 of chapter 111C;

6 (35) a contract for the operation or management of a Horace Mann charter school made 7 in accordance with section 89 of chapter 71;

8 (36) a contract for the operation or management of an innovation school or a contract
9 with an external partner made in accordance with section 92 of chapter 71; or

(37) a contract for the operation or management of a school designated as needsimprovement or underperforming made in accordance with section 1J of chapter 69.

12 SECTION 3. Section 12 of said chapter 30B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by 13 adding the following subsection:- (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) or any contrary provision of any
municipal law or provisions of any municipal charter, a school district may enter into a contract
for a term not to exceed 5 years, including any renewal, extension, or option, for the full or
partial operation or management of a Horace Mann charter school under section 89 of chapter
71, an innovation school under section 92 of chapter 71, or a school designated as needs
improvement or underperforming under section 1J of chapter 69.

20 SECTION 4. Chapter 69 is hereby amended by striking out section 1J, as so appearing, 21 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

22 Section 1J. (a) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may, on the 23 basis of student performance data collected under section 1I, a school or district review 24 performed under section 55A of chapter 15, or regulations adopted by the board of elementary 25 and secondary education, designate 1 or more schools in a school district other than a Horace 26 Mann charter school as needs improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming. The board shall adopt regulations establishing standards for the commissioner to make such 27 28 designations on the basis of data collected under section 1I or information from a school or 29 district review performed under section 55A of chapter 15. Upon the release of the proposed 30 regulations, the board shall file a copy thereof with the clerks of the house of representatives and 31 the senate who shall forward the regulations to the joint committee on education. Within 30 days 32 of the filing, the committee may hold a public hearing and issue a report on the regulations and file the report with the board. The board, under applicable law, may adopt final regulations 33 34 making revisions to the proposed regulations as it deems appropriate after consideration of the 35 report and shall forthwith file a copy of the regulations with the chairpersons of the joint committee on education and, not earlier than 30 days of the filing, the board shall file the final 36 37 regulations with the state secretary.

In adopting regulations allowing the commissioner to designate a school as needs improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming, the board shall ensure that such regulations take into account multiple indicators of school quality in making determinations regarding the designation of a school, such as student attendance, dismissal rates and exclusion rates, promotion rates, graduation rates or the lack of demonstrated significant improvement for 2 or more consecutive years in core academic subjects, either in the aggregate or among subgroups of students, including designations based on special education, low-income, English language proficiency and racial classifications.

46 Before a school is designated chronically underperforming by the commissioner, a school 47 must be designated as needs improvement or underperforming and fail to improve.

- 48 A school designated as needs improvement, underperforming or chronically
- 49 underperforming shall operate in accordance with laws regulating other public schools, except as
- 50 such provisions may conflict with this section or any improvement or turnaround plans created

51 thereunder. A student who is enrolled in a school at the time it is designated as needs

52 improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming shall retain the ability to remain

53 enrolled in the school while remaining a resident of the district if the student chooses to do so.

(b) Upon the designation of a school as needs improvement or as an underperforming school in accordance with regulations developed under this section, the superintendent of the district, with approval by the commissioner, shall create an improvement or turnaround plan for the school, under subsections (b) to (e), inclusive. The commissioner may allow for an expedited turnaround plan for schools that have been previously designated as underperforming and where the district has a turnaround plan that has had a public comment period and approval of the local school committee

61 Before the superintendent creates the improvement or turnaround plan required in this 62 subsection, the superintendent shall convene a local stakeholder group of not more than 13 individuals, for the purpose of soliciting recommendations on the content of such plan to 63 64 maximize the rapid academic achievement of students at the school. The superintendent shall provide due consideration to the recommendations of the stakeholder group. The group shall 65 66 include: (1) the commissioner, or a designee; (2) the chair of the school committee, or a 67 designee; (3) the president of the local teacher's union, or a designee; (4) an administrator from the school, who may be the principal, chosen by the superintendent; (5) a teacher from the school 68 69 chosen by the faculty of the school; (6) a parent from the school chosen by the local parent organization; (7) representatives of applicable state and local social service, health and child 70 71 welfare agencies, chosen by the superintendent; (8) as appropriate, representatives of state and 72 local workforce development agencies, chosen by the superintendent; (9) for elementary schools, 73 a representative of an early education and care provider chosen by the commissioner of the department of early education and care and, for middle schools or high schools, a representative 74 of the higher education community selected by the secretary; and (10) a member of the 75 76 community appointed by the chief executive of the city or town. If the school or district does not have a parent organization or if the organization does not select a parent, the superintendent shall 77 78 select a volunteer parent of a student from the school. The superintendent shall convene such 79 group within 30 days of the commissioner designating a school as needs improvement or 80 underperforming and the group shall make its recommendations to the superintendent within 45 days of its initial meeting. Meetings of the local stakeholder group shall be open to the public 81 82 and the recommendations submitted to the superintendent under this subsection shall be publicly 83 available immediately upon their submission.

84 (c) In creating the improvement or turnaround plan in subsection (b) the superintendent 85 shall include, after considering the recommendations of the local stakeholder group, provisions 86 intended to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students at the school, including, but 87 not limited to, a regular school day schedule that has not less than 1 additional hour of structured 88 learning time as defined in 603 CMR 27.00. The superintendent shall, to the extent practicable, 89 base the plan on student outcome data, including, but not limited to: (1) data collected under 90 section 1I or information from a school or district review performed under section 55A of

91 chapter 15; (2) student achievement on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System;

92 (3) other measures of student achievement, approved by the commissioner; (4) student

93 promotion, graduation and drop out rates; (5) achievement data for different subgroups of

94 students, including low-income students as defined in chapter 70, limited English-proficient

95 students and students receiving special education; and (6) student attendance, dismissal and

96 exclusion rates.

97 The superintendent shall also include in the creation of the improvement or turnaround

98 plan, after considering the recommendations of the local stakeholder group, the following: (1)99 steps to address social service and health needs of students at the school and their families, to

100 help students arrive and remain at school ready to learn; provided, however, that this may

101 include mental health and substance abuse screening; (2) steps to improve or expand child

102 welfare services and, as appropriate, law enforcement services in the school community, in order

103 to promote a safe and secure learning environment; (3) steps to improve workforce development

104 services provided to students and their families at the school, to provide students and families

105 with meaningful employment skills and opportunities; (4) steps to address achievement gaps for

106 limited English-proficient, special education and low-income students; (5) alternative English

107 language learning programs for limited English proficient students, notwithstanding chapter

108 71A; and (6) a financial plan for the school, including any additional funds to be provided by the

109 district, commonwealth, federal government or other sources.

The secretaries of health and human services, labor and workforce development, public safety and other applicable state and local social service, health and child welfare officials shall coordinate with the superintendent regarding the implementation of strategies under clauses (1) to (3), inclusive, of the second paragraph that are included in a final turnaround plan and shall, subject to appropriation, reasonably support such implementation consistent with the requirements of state and federal law applicable to the relevant programs that each such official is responsible for administering. The secretary of education and the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall assist the superintendent in facilitating the coordination.

118 To assess the school across multiple measures of school performance and student success, the improvement or turnaround plan shall include measurable annual goals including, 119 120 but not limited to: (1) student attendance, dismissal rates and exclusion rates; (2) student safety and discipline; (3) student promotion, graduation and dropout rates; (4) student achievement on 121 the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System; (5) progress in areas of academic 122 underperformance; (6) progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students as 123 124 defined by chapter 70, limited English-proficient students and students receiving special education; (7) reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students; (8) student 125 acquisition and mastery of twenty-first century skills; (9) development of college readiness, 126 including at the elementary and middle school levels; (10) parent and family engagement; (11) 127 building a culture of academic success among students; (12) building a culture of student support 128

and success among school faculty and staff and; (13) developmentally appropriate child

130 assessments from pre-kindergarten through third grade, if applicable.

131 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in creating the 132 improvement or turnaround plan required in subsection (b), the superintendent may, after 133 considering the recommendations of the group of stakeholders: (1) expand, alter or replace the 134 curriculum and program offerings of the school, including the implementation of research-based 135 early literacy programs, early interventions for struggling readers and the teaching of advanced 136 placement courses or other rigorous nationally or internationally recognized courses, if the 137 school does not already have such programs or courses; (2) reallocate the uses of the existing 138 budget of the school; (3) provide additional funds to the school from the budget of the district, if 139 the school does not already receive funding from the district at least equal to the average per 140 pupil funding received for students of the same classification and grade level in the district; (4) 141 provide funds, subject to appropriation and following consultation with applicable local unions, 142 to increase the salary of any administrator or teacher in the school, to attract or retain highly-143 qualified administrators or teachers or to reward administrators or teachers who work in schools 144 designated as needs improvement or underperforming that achieve the annual goals set forth in the improvement or turnaround plan; (5) expand the school day or school year or both of the 145 school; (6) for an elementary school, add pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten classes, if 146 the school does not already have such classes; (7) following consultation with applicable local 147 148 unions, require the principal and all administrators, teachers and staff to reapply for their 149 positions in the school, with full discretion vested in the superintendent regarding his consideration of and decisions on rehiring based on the reapplications; (8) limit, suspend or 150 change 1 or more provisions of any contract or collective bargaining agreement, as the contract 151 152 or agreement applies to the school; provided, that the superintendent shall not reduce the compensation of an administrator, teacher or staff member unless the hours of the person are 153 154 proportionately reduced; (9) limit, suspend or change 1 or more school district policies or 155 practices, as such policies or practices relate to the school; (10) include a provision of job-156 embedded professional development for teachers at the school, with an emphasis on strategies 157 that involve teacher input and feedback; (11) provide for increased opportunities for teacher planning time and collaboration focused on improving student instruction; (12) establish a plan 158 for professional development for administrators at the school, with an emphasis on strategies that 159 160 develop leadership skills and use the principles of distributive leadership; (13) establish steps to assure a continuum of high-expertise teachers by aligning the following processes with a 161 162 common core of professional knowledge and skill: hiring, induction, teacher evaluation, 163 professional development, teacher advancement, school culture and organizational structure; (14) 164 develop a strategy to search for and study best practices in areas of demonstrated deficiency in 165 the school; (15) establish strategies to address mobility and transiency among the student population of the school; and (16) include additional components based on the reasons why the 166 167 school was designated as needs improvement or underperforming and the recommendations of 168 the group of stakeholders in subsection (b).

169 If the superintendent does not approve a reapplication submitted by an employee under 170 clause (7) for a position in the school or if an employee does not submit a reapplication for a 171 position in the school, the employee shall retain such rights as may be provided under law or any 172 applicable collective bargaining agreement in relation to the employee's ability to fill an open 173 position in the district; provided, however, that the employee shall not have the right to displace 174 any teacher in any position.

175 A teacher with professional teacher status in a school declared needs improvement or underperforming may be dismissed for good cause; provided, however, that the teacher receives 176 5 days written notice of the decision to terminate which shall include, without limitation, an 177 178 explanation of the reason why the superintendent is not retaining the teacher in the school; 179 provided, further, that the teacher may seek review of a termination decision within 5 days after receiving notice of the teacher's termination by filing a petition for expedited arbitration with the 180 181 commissioner; provided, further, that except as otherwise provided herein, section 42 of chapter 182 71 shall apply to a petition filed under this section; provided, further, that the commissioner shall 183 cause an arbitrator to be selected under the procedures in section 42 of chapter 71 within 3 days 184 of receipt of petition and the arbitrator shall conduct and complete a hearing within 10 days of receipt of the petition; provided, further, that in reviewing dismissal decisions, the arbitrator shall 185 186 consider the components of the improvement or turnaround plan and shall also consider any personnel evaluations conducted that are consistent with the guidelines established under section 187 188 1B; and provided, further, that the arbitrator's decision shall be issued within 10 days from the

189 completion of the hearing.

190 The principal in a school designated as needs improvement or underperforming shall 191 have decision-making authority, subject to the approval of the superintendent, for the hiring or 192 assignment of all administrators, teachers and staff in the school, provided, however that both the 193 principal and the person seeking a position in the school mutually agree to the hiring or 194 assignment.

For a school with limited English-proficient students, the professional development and planning time for teachers and administrators identified in clauses (10) to (12), inclusive, shall include specific strategies and content designed to maximize the rapid academic achievement of limited English-proficient students at the school.

(e) Within 30 days of the local stakeholder group making recommendations under subsection (b), the superintendent shall submit an improvement or turnaround plan to the local stakeholder group, the school committee and the commissioner, all of whom may propose modifications to the plan. The superintendent shall make such plan immediately available to the public upon the submission. The stakeholder group, the school committee and the commissioner shall submit any proposed modifications to the superintendent not more than 30 days after the date of submission of the improvement or turnaround plan and the proposed modifications shall be made public immediately upon their submission to the superintendent. The superintendent 207 shall consider and may incorporate the modifications into the plan if the superintendent

208 determines that inclusion of the modifications would further promote the rapid academic

209 achievement of students at the school or may alter or reject the proposed modifications submitted

210 under this subsection. Within 30 days of receiving any proposed modifications under this

211 subsection, the superintendent shall issue a final improvement or turnaround plan for the school

and the plan shall be made publicly available.

(f) Within 30 days of the issuance of a final improvement or turnaround plan under subsection (e) a school committee or local union may appeal to the commissioner regarding 1 or more components of the plan, including the absence of 1 or more modifications proposed under subsection (e). The commissioner may, in consultation with the superintendent, modify the plan if the commissioner determines that: (1) such modifications would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students in the applicable school; (2) a component of the plan was included, or a modification was excluded, on the basis of demonstrably-false information or evidence; or (3) the superintendent failed to meet the requirements of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive. The decision of the commissioner regarding an appeal under this subsection shall be

222 made within 30 days and shall be final.

223 (g) If, after considering the recommendations of the group of stakeholders, the 224 superintendent considers it necessary to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students at 225 the applicable school by altering the compensation, hours and working conditions of the administrators, teachers, principal and staff at the school or by altering other provisions of a 226 227 contract or collective bargaining agreement applicable to the administrators, teachers, principal 228 and staff, the superintendent may request that the school committee and any union bargain or 229 reopen the bargaining of the relevant collective bargaining agreement to facilitate such achievement. The bargaining shall be conducted in good faith and completed not later than 30 230 231 days from the point at which the superintendent requested that the parties bargain. The 232 agreement shall be subject to ratification within 10 business days by the bargaining unit members 233 in the school. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement within 30 days or if the agreement is not ratified within 10 business days by the bargaining unit members of the school, the parties 234 235 shall submit remaining unresolved issues to a joint resolution committee for a dispute resolution 236 process on the next business day following the end of the 30-day bargaining period or failure to 237 ratify.

238 The joint resolution committee shall be comprised of 3 members, 1 of whom shall be 239 appointed by the employee organization within 3 business days following the submission of unresolved issues to the joint resolution committee, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the school 240 241 committee within 3 business days following the submission of unresolved issues to the joint resolution committee and 1 of whom shall be selected through the American Arbitration 242 Association who shall forthwith forward to the parties a list of 3 conciliators, each of whom shall 243 have professional experience in elementary and secondary education, from which the parties may 244 agree upon a single conciliator provided, however, that if the parties cannot select a conciliator 245

246 from among the 3 within 3 business days, the American Arbitration Association shall select a

247 conciliator from the remaining names. The joint resolution committee shall conduct a dispute

- 248 resolution process to be concluded within 10 business days of selection. This process shall be
- 249 conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association and consistent
- 250 with this section. The fee for the process shall be shared equally between the 2 parties involved.

The joint resolution committee shall consider the positions of the parties, the designation of the school as needs improvement or underperforming and the needs of the students in the school. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the decision of the joint resolution committee shall be dispositive of all the issues in dispute and shall be submitted to the parties within 10 business days of the completion of the process. Under no circumstance shall a time extension be granted beyond 10 business days of the completion of the process. If a decision is not submitted to the parties within 10 business days, the commissioner will resolve all outstanding issues.

259 (h) The superintendent may select an external receiver to operate the school and 260 implement the improvement or turnaround plan or to assist the superintendent with the implementation. The superintendent may appoint the receiver if the superintendent determines 261 262 that conditions exist in the district that are likely to negatively affect his ability to implement the 263 plan successfully. A school committee may appeal to the commissioner the decision of the 264 superintendent to appoint an external receiver. The commissioner may reverse such decision 265 only if he determines that the superintendent made the decision on the basis of demonstrably-266 false information or evidence. A receiver shall be a non-profit entity or an individual with a 267 demonstrated record of success in improving low-performing schools or the academic performance of disadvantaged students. The selection of the receiver by the superintendent shall 268 269 not be subject to chapter 30B. A receiver shall be subject to section 11A 1/2 of chapter 30A and 270 chapter 66. A receiver who is an individual shall also be subject to chapter 268A.

(i) An external receiver selected by the superintendent to operate a school shall have full
managerial and operational control over the school as provided in the improvement or
turnaround plan. For all other purposes, the school district in which the school is located shall
remain the employer of record.

(j) Each improvement or turnaround plan shall be authorized for a period of not more
than 3 years, subject to subsection (k). The superintendent or external receiver, as applicable,
may develop additional components of the improvement or turnaround plan under subsections
(b) to (g) inclusive and shall develop annual goals for each component of the plan, in a manner
consistent with subsections (b) to (g), inclusive. The superintendent or external receiver, as
applicable, shall be responsible for meeting the goals of the plan.

(k) Each school designated by the commissioner as needs improvement orunderperforming under subsection (a) shall be reviewed by the superintendent, in consultation

283 with the principal of the school, at least annually. The purpose of the review shall be to

284 determine whether the school has met the annual goals in its improvement or turnaround plan

and to assess the overall implementation of the plan. The review shall be in writing and shall be

submitted to the commissioner and the relevant school committee not later than July 1 for the

287 preceding school year. The review shall be submitted in a format determined by the department

288 of elementary and secondary education.

289 If the commissioner determines that the school has met the annual performance goals 290 stated in the improvement or turnaround plan, the review shall be considered sufficient and the 291 implementation of the plan shall continue. If the commissioner determines that the school has not 292 met 1 or more goals in the improvement or turnaround plan and that the failure to meet the goals 293 may be corrected through reasonable modification of the plan, the superintendent may amend the plan in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (b) to (g) inclusive. If the 294 295 commissioner determines that the school has substantially failed to meet 1 or more goals in the 296 plan, the commissioner may appoint an examiner to conduct an evaluation of the school's 297 implementation of the improvement or turnaround plan.

298 If the commissioner determines that the school has substantially failed to meet multiple 299 goals in the plan, the commissioner may require changes to the improvement or turnaround plan 300 to be implemented by the superintendent in the following year or the appointment of an external 301 partner to advise and assist the superintendent in implementing the plan the following year. The 302 selection of the external partner by the commissioner shall not be subject to sections 51 and 52 of chapter 30. If the changes to the improvement or turnaround plan require changes in a collective 303 bargaining agreement applicable to administrators, teachers or staff in the school, the bargaining 304 305 procedure in subsection (g) shall be used. If a school designated as needs improvement or 306 underperforming is operated by an external receiver, the commissioner may require the 307 superintendent to terminate the receiver and develop a new improvement or turnaround plan.

308 (1) Upon the expiration of an improvement or turnaround plan, the commissioner shall 309 conduct a review of the school to determine whether the school has improved sufficiently, requires further improvement or has failed to improve. On the basis of such review, the 310 commissioner may determine that: (1) the school has improved sufficiently for the designation of 311 the school as needs improvement or underperforming to be removed; (2) the school has not 312 313 improved to the point that it is no longer eligible to be designated as needs improvement or 314 underperforming, in which case the superintendent may, with the approval of the commissioner, 315 renew the improvement or turnaround plan or create a new or modified improvement or turnaround plan for an additional period of not more than 3 years, consistent with the 316 317 requirements of subsections (a) to (g); or (3) consistent with the requirements of subsection (a), the school is chronically underperforming. The commissioner may recommend the appointment 318 of an external receiver by the superintendent if the commissioner believes that a new or modified 319 improvement or turnaround plan implemented by the superintendent will not result in rapid 320 321 improvement. In carrying out this subsection, the superintendent shall: (1) in the case of a

renewal of an improvement or turnaround plan, determine subsequent annual goals for each
component of the plan with the input of the local stakeholder group as defined in subsection (b);
or (2) create a new or modified improvement or turnaround plan as necessary, consistent with the

325 requirements of this section.

326 (m) Upon the designation of a school as a chronically underperforming school in 327 accordance with the regulations developed under this section, the commissioner shall create a 328 turnaround plan for the school under this subsection and subsections (n) to (p), inclusive. Upon 329 implementation of the turnaround plan required in this subsection, a school designated as 330 chronically underperforming shall have a regular schedule of not less than 7.5 hours per day for 331 all grades except kindergarten in an elementary school and 8.0 hours per day for a high school 332 unless the turnaround plan contains an explanation of why the school's regular schedule should 333 contain fewer hours per day.

334 Before creating the turnaround plan required in this subsection, the commissioner shall 335 convene a local stakeholder group of not more than 13 individuals for the purpose of soliciting 336 recommendations on the content of such plan in order to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students. The commissioner shall provide due consideration to the 337 338 recommendations of the stakeholder group. The group shall include: (1) the superintendent, or a designee; (2) the chair of the school committee, or a designee; (3) the president of the local 339 340 teacher's union, or a designee; (4) an administrator from the school, who may be the principal, 341 chosen by the superintendent; (5) a teacher from the school chosen by the faculty of the school; 342 (6) a parent from the school chosen by the local parent organization; (7) representatives of applicable state and local social service, health and child welfare agencies, chosen by the 343 344 commissioner; (8) as appropriate, representatives of state and local workforce development agencies, chosen by the commissioner; (9) for elementary schools, a representative of an early 345 346 education and care provider chosen by the commissioner of the department of early education 347 and care and, for middle schools or high schools, a representative of the higher education 348 community selected by the secretary of education; and (10) a member of the community 349 appointed by the chief executive of the city or town. If the school or district does not have a 350 parent organization or if the organization does not select a parent, the commissioner shall select a 351 volunteer parent of a student from the school. The commissioner shall convene the group within 352 30 days of the designation of a school as chronically underperforming and the group shall make 353 its recommendations to the commissioner within 45 days of its initial meeting. Meetings of the 354 local stakeholder group shall be open to the public and the recommendations submitted to the 355 commissioner under this subsection shall be publicly available immediately upon their 356 submission.

(n) In creating the turnaround plan required in subsection (m), the commissioner shall
include, after considering the recommendations of the local stakeholder group, provisions
intended to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students at the school and shall, to the
extent practicable, base the plan on student outcome data, including, but not limited to: (1) data

361 collected under section 1I or information from a school or district review performed under

362 section 55A of chapter 15; (2) student achievement on the Massachusetts Comprehensive

363 Assessment System; (3) other measures of student achievement, approved by the commissioner,

364 as appropriate; (4) student promotion, graduation and drop out rates; (5) achievement data for

365 different subgroups of students, including low-income students as defined by chapter 70, limited

366 English-proficient students and students receiving special education; and (6) student attendance,

367 dismissal, and exclusion rates.

368 The commissioner shall include in the creation of the turnaround plan, after considering

the recommendations of the local stakeholder group, the following: (1) steps to address social service and health needs of students at the school, and their families, in order to help students

371 arrive and remain at school ready to learn; provided, however, that this may include mental

372 health and substance abuse screening; (2) steps to improve or expand child welfare services and,

373 as appropriate, law enforcement services in the school community, in order to promote a safe and

374 secure learning environment; (3) steps to improve workforce development services provided to

375 students at the school, and their families, in order to provide students and families with

376 meaningful employment skills and opportunities; (4) steps to address achievement gaps for

377 limited English-proficient, special education and low-income students; (5) alternative English

378 language learning programs for limited-English proficient students, notwithstanding chapter

379 71A; and (6) a financial plan for the school, including any additional funds to be provided by the

380 district, commonwealth, federal government or other sources.

The secretaries of health and human services, labor and workforce development, public safety and other applicable state and local social service, health and child welfare officials shall coordinate with the secretary of education and the commissioner regarding the implementation of strategies under clauses (1) to (3), inclusive, of the second paragraph that are included in a final turnaround plan and shall, subject to appropriation, reasonably support the implementation consistent with the requirements of state and federal law applicable to the relevant programs that each official is responsible for administering.

388 In order to assess the school across multiple measures of school performance and student success, the turnaround plan shall include measurable annual goals including, but not limited to, 389 the following: (1) student attendance, dismissal and exclusion rates; (2) student safety and 390 391 discipline; (3) student promotion, graduation and dropout rates; (4) student achievement on the 392 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System; (5) progress in areas of academic underperformance; (6) progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students as 393 defined by chapter 70, limited English-proficient students and students receiving special 394 395 education; (7) reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students; (8) student acquisition and mastery of 21st-century skills; (9) development of college readiness, including at 396 the elementary and middle school levels; (10) parent and family engagement; (11) building a 397 culture of academic success among students; (12) building a culture of student support and 398

399 success among school faculty and staff; and (13) developmentally appropriate child assessments400 from pre-kindergarten through third grade, if applicable.

401 (o) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in creating the turnaround plan required in subsection (m), the commissioner may, after considering the recommendations 402 403 of the group of stakeholders: (1) expand, alter or replace the curriculum and program offerings of 404 the school, including the implementation of research-based early literacy programs, early 405 interventions for struggling readers and the teaching of advanced placement courses or other 406 rigorous nationally or internationally recognized courses, if the school does not already have 407 such programs or courses; (2) reallocate the uses of the existing budget of the school; (3) provide 408 additional funds to the school from the budget of the district, if the school does not already 409 receive funding from the district at least equal to the average per pupil funding received for students of the same classification and grade level in the district; (4) provide funds, subject to 410 411 appropriation, to increase the salary of an administrator, or teacher in the school, in order to attract or retain highly-qualified administrators or teachers or to reward administrators, or 412 413 teachers who work in chronically underperforming schools that achieve the annual goals set forth in the turnaround plan; (5) expand the school day or school year or both of the school; (6) for an 414 415 elementary school, add pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten classes, if the school does not already have such classes; (7) limit, suspend, or change 1 or more provisions of any contract or 416 417 collective bargaining agreement, as the contract or agreement applies to the school; provided, 418 however, that the commissioner shall not reduce the compensation of an administrator, teacher or 419 staff member unless the hours of the person are proportionately reduced; and provided further, that the commissioner may require the school committee and any applicable unions to bargain in 420 421 good faith for 30 days before exercising authority under this clause; (8) following consultation 422 with applicable local unions, require the principal and all administrators, teachers and staff to 423 reapply for their positions in the school, with full discretion vested in the commissioner 424 regarding his consideration of and decisions on rehiring based on the reapplications; (9) limit, suspend or change 1 or more school district policies or practices, as such policies or practices 425 426 relate to the school; (10) include a provision of job-embedded professional development for 427 teachers at the school, with an emphasis on strategies that involve teacher input and feedback; 428 (11) provide for increased opportunities for teacher planning time and collaboration focused on 429 improving student instruction; (12) establish a plan for professional development for 430 administrators at the school, with an emphasis on strategies that develop leadership skills and use 431 the principles of distributive leadership; (13) establish steps to assure a continuum of high expertise teachers by aligning the following processes with a common core of professional 432 knowledge and skill: hiring, induction, teacher evaluation, professional development, teacher 433 advancement, school culture and organizational structure; (14) develop a strategy to search for 434 435 and study best practices in areas of demonstrated deficiency in the school; (15) establish strategies to address mobility and transiency among the student population of the school; and 436 437 (16) include additional components, at the discretion of the commissioner, based on the reasons

438 the school was designated as chronically underperforming and the recommendations of the local439 stakeholder group in subsection (m).

If the commissioner does not approve a reapplication submitted by an employee under clause (8) for a position in the school or if an employee does not submit a reapplication for a position in the school, the employee shall retain such rights as may be provided under law or any applicable collective bargaining agreement, in relation to the employee's ability to fill an open position in the district; provided, however, that the employee shall not have the right to displace any teacher in any position.

446 A teacher with professional teacher status in a school declared chronically 447 underperforming may be dismissed for good cause; provided, however, that the teacher receives 448 5 days written notice of the decision to terminate which shall include without limitation an 449 explanation of the reason why the commissioner is not retaining the teacher in the school; 450 provided, further, that the teacher may seek review of a termination decision within 5 days after 451 receiving notice of the teacher's termination by filing a petition for expedited arbitration with the 452 commissioner; provided further, that except as otherwise provided herein, section 42 of chapter 453 71 shall apply to a petition filed under this section; provided further, that the commissioner shall 454 cause an arbitrator to be selected under the procedures in section 42 of chapter 71 within 3 days 455 of receipt of petition and the arbitrator shall conduct and complete a hearing within 10 days of 456 receipt of the petition; provided, further, that in reviewing dismissal decisions, the arbitrator shall 457 consider the components of the turnaround plan and shall also consider any personnel 458 evaluations conducted that are consistent with the guidelines established under section 1B; and 459 provided, further, that the arbitrator's decision shall be issued within 10 days from the completion of the hearing. 460

In a school designated as chronically underperforming, the commissioner shall have
decision-making authority for the hiring or assignment of all administrators, teachers and staff in
the school, provided, however, that both the commissioner and the person seeking a position in
the school mutually agree to the hiring or assignment.

For a school with limited English-proficient students, the professional development and planning time for teachers and administrators identified in clauses (10) to (12), inclusive, shall include specific strategies and content designed to maximize the rapid academic achievement of the limited English-proficient students.

If the commissioner proposes to reallocate funds to the school from the budget of the district under clause (3), the commissioner shall notify the school committee, in writing, of the amount of and rationale for the reallocation.

(p) Within 30 days of the local stakeholder group making recommendations under
subsection (m), the commissioner shall submit a turnaround plan to the local stakeholder group,
the superintendent and the school committee, all of whom may propose modifications to the

plan. The commissioner shall make the plan immediately available to the public upon 475 476 submission. The stakeholder group, the superintendent and the school committee shall submit any proposed modifications to the commissioner within 30 days after the date of submission of 477 478 the turnaround plan and the proposed modifications shall be made public immediately upon their 479 submission to the commissioner. The commissioner shall consider and incorporate the modifications into the plan if the commissioner determines that inclusion of the modifications 480 would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students at the applicable school. The 481 commissioner may alter or reject modifications submitted under this subsection. Within 30 days 482 483 of receiving any proposed modifications, the commissioner shall issue a final turnaround plan for 484 the school and the plan shall be made publicly available.

485 (q) Within 30 days of the issuance of a final turnaround plan under subsection (p), a superintendent, school committee or local union may appeal to the board of elementary and 486 487 secondary education regarding 1 or more components of the plan, including the absence of 1 or more modifications proposed under subsection (p). A majority of the board may vote to modify 488 489 the plan if the board determines that: (1) such modifications would further promote the rapid academic achievement of students in the applicable school; (2) a component of the plan was 490 491 included, or a modification was excluded, on the basis of demonstrably-false information or 492 evidence; or (3) the commissioner failed to meet the requirements of subsections (m) to (p), 493 inclusive. The decision of the board regarding an appeal under this subsection shall be made 494 within 30 days and shall be final.

495 (r) In the case of a chronically underperforming school, the commissioner may, under the 496 circumstances described in this subsection, send a targeted assistance team to the school to assist 497 the superintendent with the implementation of the turnaround plan, require the superintendent to 498 implement the turnaround plan, or select an external receiver to operate the school and 499 implement the turnaround plan. The commissioner may appoint such receiver if the 500 commissioner determines that: (1) the superintendent is unlikely to implement the plan 501 successfully; or (2) conditions exist in the district that are likely to negatively affect the ability of 502 the superintendent to implement such plan successfully. A receiver shall be a non-profit entity or 503 an individual with a demonstrated record of success in improving low performing schools or the 504 academic performance of disadvantaged students. The selection of the receiver by the 505 commissioner shall not be subject to chapter 30B or sections 51 and 52 of chapter 30. A receiver 506 shall be subject to section 11A1/2 of chapter 30A and chapter 66. A receiver who is an individual 507 shall also be subject to chapter 268A.

508 The commissioner may select the external receiver upon the designation of a school as 509 chronically underperforming. The external receiver may serve as the commissioner's designee 510 for the purpose of creating a school's turnaround plan under subsections (m) to (p), inclusive.

(s) An external receiver selected by the commissioner to operate a chronicallyunderperforming school shall have full managerial and operational control over the school as

provided in the turnaround plan. For all other purposes, the school district in which the school islocated shall remain the employer of record.

(t) Each turnaround plan shall be authorized for a period of not more than 3 years, subject to subsection (v). The superintendent or external receiver, as applicable, may develop additional components of the plan and shall develop annual goals for each component of the plan in a manner consistent with subsection (n), all of which must be approved by the commissioner. The superintendent or external receiver, as applicable, shall be responsible for meeting the goals of the turnaround plan.

(u) The commissioner or external receiver, as applicable, shall provide a written report to
the school committee on a quarterly basis to provide specific information about the progress
being made on the implementation of the school's turnaround plan. One of the quarterly reports
shall be the annual evaluation under subsection (v).

525 (v) The commissioner shall evaluate each chronically underperforming school at least 526 annually. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to determine whether the school has met the 527 annual goals in its turnaround plan and assess the implementation of the plan at the school. The 528 review shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the superintendent and the school committee 529 not later than July 1 for the preceding school year. The review shall be submitted in a format 530 determined by the department of elementary and secondary education.

531 If the commissioner determines that the school has met the annual performance goals 532 stated in the turnaround plan, the review shall be considered sufficient and the implementation of 533 the turnaround plan shall continue. If the commissioner determines that the school has not met 1 534 or more goals in the plan, the commissioner may modify the plan in a manner consistent with 535 subsection (n).

If the commissioner determines that the school has substantially failed to meet multiple goals in the plan, the commissioner may: (1) if the school is operated by a superintendent, appoint an external receiver, as defined in subsection (r), to operate the school; or (2) if the school is operated by an external receiver terminate the contract of the external receiver; provided, however, that the commissioner shall not terminate the receiver before the completion of the first full school year of the operation of the chronically underperforming school.

542 (w) Upon the expiration of a turnaround plan for a chronically underperforming school, 543 the commissioner shall conduct a review of the school to determine whether the school has 544 improved sufficiently, requires further improvement or has failed to improve. On the basis of such review, the commissioner may: (1) on the basis of a superintendent's or external receiver's 545 success in meeting the terms of the plan, renew the plan with the superintendent or external 546 receiver for an additional period of not more than 3 years; (2) if a school operated by a 547 548 superintendent remains chronically underperforming, appoint an external receiver, as defined in subsection (r), to operate the school; (3) if a chronically underperforming school operated by an 549

550 external receiver remains chronically underperforming, transfer the operation of the school from 551 the receiver to the applicable superintendent or to another external receiver; or (4) determine that 552 the school has improved sufficiently for the designation of chronically underperforming to be removed. The commissioner shall: (1) in the case of a renewal of a turnaround plan, jointly 553 554 determine subsequent annual goals for each component of the plan with the superintendent or external receiver, as applicable; or (2) create a new or modified turnaround plan as necessary, 555 consistent with the requirements of this section. If a chronically underperforming school has 556 improved sufficiently for the designation of chronically underperforming to be removed, the 557 commissioner may designate the school as needs improvement or as an underperforming school. 558 559 Upon the designation of the school as needs improvement or as an underperforming school in accordance with regulations developed under this section, the superintendent of the district, with 560 approval by the commissioner, shall create an improvement or turnaround plan for the school, 561

562 under subsections (b) to (e), inclusive.

563 (x) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any school designated as 564 needs improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming that is operating a limited-English proficient program or programs for limited English proficient students in any 1 language 565 group shall establish a limited English proficient parent advisory council. The parent advisory 566 council shall be comprised of parents or legal guardians of students who are enrolled in limited 567 English proficient programs within the school. Each parent advisory council shall have at least 1 568 569 representative from every language group in which a program is conducted in a given school. 570 Membership shall be restricted to parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in limited English proficient programs within the school. The duties of the parent advisory council shall 571 include, but not be limited to, advising the school on matters that pertain to the education of 572 573 students in limited English proficient programs, meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning and development of a plan to improve educational opportunities for 574 limited English proficient students, and to participate in the review of school improvement plans 575 established under section 59C of chapter 71 as they pertain to limited English proficient students. 576 Any parent advisory council may, at its request, meet at least once annually with the school 577 578 council. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this section, the parent advisory council shall receive 579 580 assistance from the director of limited English proficient programs for the district or other 581 appropriate school personnel as designated by the superintendent.

(y) The board of elementary and secondary education shall adopt regulations regarding:
(1) the conditions under which a school designated as needs improvement, underperforming or
chronically underperforming shall no longer be so designated; and (2) the transfer of the
operation of a school designated as needs improvement, underperforming or chronically
underperforming from a superintendent or an external receiver, as applicable, to the school
committee. The regulations shall include provisions to allow a school to retain measures adopted
in an improvement or turnaround plan.

(z) The commissioner shall report annually to the joint committee on education, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the speaker of the house of representatives and the senate president on the implementation and fiscal impact of this section and section 1K. The report shall include, but not be limited to, a list of all schools currently designated as needs improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming, a list of all districts currently designated as chronically underperforming, the plans and timetable for returning the schools and districts to the local school committee and strategies used in each of the schools and districts to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students.

597 SECTION 5. Said chapter 69 is hereby further amended by striking out section 1K, as so 598 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

599 Section 1K. (a) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may, on the 600 basis of student performance data collected under section 1I, a district review performed under section 55A of chapter 15, or regulations adopted by the board of elementary and secondary 601 602 education, deem a district eligible for designation as chronically underperforming. The board shall adopt regulations establishing standards for the commissioner to make such an eligibility 603 604 determination on the basis of data collected under section 1I or information from a district 605 review performed under section 55A of chapter 15. Upon the release of the proposed regulations, 606 the board shall file a copy thereof with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate 607 who shall forward the regulations to the joint committee on education. Within 30 days of the filing, the committee may hold a public hearing and issue a report on the regulations and file the 608 609 report with the board. The board, under applicable law, may adopt final regulations making 610 revisions to the proposed regulations as it deems appropriate after consideration of the report and 611 shall forthwith file a copy of the regulations with the chairpersons of the joint committee on 612 education and, not earlier than 30 days of the filing, the board shall file the final regulations with 613 the state secretary.

Following such determination, the commissioner shall appoint a district review team under section 55A of chapter 15 to assess and report on the reasons for the underperformance and the prospects for improvement, unless such an assessment has been completed by a district review team within the previous year that the commissioner considers adequate. The district review team shall include at least 1 person with expertise in the academic achievement of limited English-proficient students. Upon review of the findings of the district review team, the board may declare the district chronically underperforming.

Following such a declaration, the board shall designate a receiver for the district with all the powers of the superintendent and school committee. The receiver shall be a non-profit entity or an individual with a demonstrated record of success in improving low-performing schools or districts or the academic performance of disadvantaged students who shall report directly to the commissioner. The selection of the receiver by the board shall not be subject to sections 51 and 52 of chapter 30. An external receiver designated by the board to operate a district under this

- 627 subsection shall have full managerial and operational control over such district; provided,
- 628 however, that the school district shall remain the employer of record for all other purposes. A
- 629 receiver shall be subject to section 11A 1/2 of chapter 30A and chapter 66. A receiver who is an
- 630 individual shall also be subject to chapter 268A. A receiver shall be exempt from chapter 30B;
- 631 provided, however, that the receiver shall comply with sections 51 and 52 of chapter 30.

Not more than 2.5 per cent of the total number of school districts may be designated aschronically underperforming at any given time.

In adopting regulations allowing the board to designate a district as chronically underperforming, the board must ensure that the regulations account for multiple indicators of district quality including student attendance, dismissal rates, exclusion rates, student promotion and graduation rates in the district, or the lack of demonstrated significant improvement for 2 or more consecutive years in core academic subjects, either in the aggregate or among subgroups of students, including designations based on special education classification, low-income, English language proficiency and racial classifications.

641 (b) The commissioner and the receiver shall jointly create a turnaround plan to promote 642 the rapid improvement of the chronically underperforming district. The plan shall specifically 643 focus on the school or schools in the district that have been designated as needs improvement, 644 underperforming or chronically underperforming under section 1J and the district policies or 645 practices that have contributed to chronic underperformance.

646 Before creating the turnaround plan required in this subsection, the commissioner and 647 receiver shall convene a local stakeholder group of not more than 13 individuals for the purpose of soliciting recommendations on the content of such plan in order to maximize the rapid 648 649 improvement of the academic achievement of students. The commissioner and receiver shall 650 provide due consideration to the recommendations of the local stakeholder group. The group 651 shall include: (1) the superintendent, or a designee; (2) the chair of the school committee, or a 652 designee; (3) the president of the local teacher's union, or a designee; (4) a selection of administrators from the district, chosen by the commissioner and receiver from among 653 654 volunteers from the district; (5) a selection of teachers from the district, chosen by the local 655 teacher's union; (6) a selection of parents from the district chosen by the local parent organization; (7) representatives of applicable state and local social service, health, and child 656 657 welfare agencies chosen by the commissioner and receiver; (8) as appropriate, representatives of state and local workforce development agencies chosen by the commissioner and receiver; (9) a 658 659 representative of an early education and care provider chosen by the commissioner of the 660 department of early education and care, or for middle or high schools, a representative of the 661 higher education community selected by the secretary of education; and (10) a member of the 662 community appointed by the chief executive of the city or town. If the district does not have a parent organization or if the organization does not select a parent, the commissioner and receiver 663 shall select a volunteer parent of a student from the district. The commissioner and receiver shall 664

- 665 convene the group within 30 days of the board designating a district as chronically
- 666 underperforming and the group shall make its recommendations to the commissioner and
- 667 receiver within 45 days of its initial meeting. Meetings of the local stakeholder group shall be
- open to the public and the recommendations submitted to the commissioner and receiver shall be
- 669 publicly available immediately upon their submission.

670 (c) In creating the turnaround plan, the commissioner and receiver shall include measures 671 intended to maximize the rapid improvement of the academic achievement of students in the district and shall, to the extent practicable, base the plan on student outcome data, including, but 672 not limited to: (1) data collected under section 1I, or information from a school or district review 673 674 performed under section 55A of chapter 15; (2) student achievement on the Massachusetts 675 Comprehensive Assessment System; (3) other measures of student achievement, approved by the 676 commissioner; (4) student promotion and graduation and drop out rates; (5) achievement data for 677 different subgroups of students, including low-income students as defined in chapter 70, limited English-proficient students and students receiving special education; and (6) student attendance, 678 679 dismissal rates and exclusion rates. In creating the turnaround plan required in subsection (b), the commissioner and receiver shall include, after considering the recommendations of the local 680 stakeholder group, the following: (1) steps to address social service and health needs of students 681 682 in the district and their families in order to help students arrive and remain at school ready to learn; provided, however, that this may include mental health and substance abuse screening; (2) 683 684 steps to improve or expand child welfare services and, as appropriate, law enforcement services 685 in the school district community, in order to promote a safe and secure learning environment; (3) as applicable, steps to improve workforce development services provided to students in the 686 district and their families in order to provide students and families with meaningful employment 687 688 skills and opportunities; (4) steps to address achievement gaps for limited English-proficient, special education and low-income students, as applicable; (5) alternative English language 689 learning programs for limited-English proficient students, notwithstanding chapter 71A; and (6) 690 a budget for the district including any additional funds to be provided by the commonwealth, 691 692 federal government or other sources.

The secretaries of health and human services, public safety, labor and workforce development and other applicable state and local social service, health and child welfare officials shall coordinate with the secretary of education and the commissioner regarding the implementation of strategies under clauses (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection that are included in a turnaround plan and shall, subject to appropriation, reasonably support the implementation consistent with the requirements of state and federal law applicable to the relevant programs that each such official is responsible for administering.

In order to assess the district across multiple measures of district performance and student
success, the turnaround plan shall include measurable annual goals including, but not limited to,
the following: (1) student attendance, dismissal and exclusion rates; (2) student safety and
discipline; (3) student promotion, graduation and dropout rates; (4) student achievement on the

- 704 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System; (5) progress in areas of academic
- 705 underperformance; (6) progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students as
- 706 defined by chapter 70, limited English-proficient students and students receiving special
- 707 education; (7) reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students; (8) student
- 708 acquisition and mastery of 21st-century skills; (9) development of college readiness, including at
- the elementary and middle school levels; (10) parent and family engagement; (11) building a
- 710 culture of academic success among students; (12) building a culture of student support and
- 711 success among faculty and staff; and (13) developmentally appropriate child assessments from
- 712 pre-kindergarten through third grade, if applicable.

713 (d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in creating the turnaround 714 plan under subsection (b), the commissioner and the receiver may, after considering the recommendations of the group of stakeholders: (1) expand, alter or replace the curriculum and 715 716 program offerings of the district or of a school in the district, including the implementation of research-based early literacy programs, early interventions for struggling readers and the 717 718 teaching of advanced placement courses or other rigorous nationally or internationally 719 recognized courses, if the district or schools in the district do not already have such programs or 720 courses; (2) reallocate the uses of the existing budget of the district; (3) provide funds, subject to 721 appropriation, to increase the salary of an administrator or teacher working in the district, in 722 order to attract or retain highly-qualified administrators or teachers or to reward administrators or 723 teachers who work in chronically underperforming districts that achieve the annual goals set 724 forth in the turnaround plan; (4) expand the school day or school year or both of schools in the district; (5) limit, suspend or change 1 or more provisions of any contract or collective 725 bargaining agreement in the district, including the adoption of model provisions identified by the 726 727 commissioner from among existing contracts or collective bargaining agreements in the 728 commonwealth; provided, however, that the receiver shall not reduce the compensation of an administrator, teacher or staff member unless the hours of the person are proportionately 729 730 reduced; (6) add pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten classes, if the district does not already have the classes; (7) following consultation with applicable local unions, require all 731 administrators, teachers and staff to reapply for their positions in the district, with full discretion 733 vested in the receiver regarding any such reapplications; (8) limit, suspend or change 1 or more 734 school district policies or practices; (9) include a provision of job-embedded professional 735 development for teachers in the district, with an emphasis on strategies that involve teacher input 736 and feedback; (10) provide for increased opportunities for teacher planning time and 737 collaboration focused on improving student instruction; (11) establish a plan for professional 738 development for administrators in the district, with an emphasis on strategies that develop leadership skills and use the principles of distributive leadership; (12) establish steps to assure a 739 740 continuum of high expertise teachers by aligning the following processes with a common core of 741 professional knowledge and skill: hiring, induction, teacher evaluation, professional 742 development, teacher advancement, school culture and organizational structure; (13) develop a strategy to search for and study best practices in areas of demonstrated deficiency in the district; 743

744 (14) establish strategies to address mobility and transiency among the student population of the

745 district; and (15) include additional components, at the discretion of the commissioner and the

746 receiver, based on the reasons the district was designated as chronically underperforming and

747 based on the recommendations of the local stakeholder group in subsection (b).

If the receiver does not approve a reapplication submitted by an employee under clause (7) or if an employee does not submit a reapplication for a position, the employee shall retain such rights as may be provided under law or any applicable collective bargaining agreement in relation to the employee's ability to fill an open position in the district; provided, however, that the employee shall not have the right to displace any teacher in any position.

753 A teacher with professional teacher status in a district declared chronically 754 underperforming may be dismissed for good cause; provided, however, that the teacher receives 755 5 days written notice of the decision to terminate which shall include without limitation an 756 explanation of the reason why the receiver is not retaining the teacher in the district; provided, 757 further, that the teacher may seek review of a termination decision within 5 days after receiving 758 notice of the teacher's termination by filing a petition for expedited arbitration with the 759 commissioner; provided, further, that except as otherwise provided herein, section 42 of chapter 760 71 shall apply to a petition filed under this section; provided further, that the commissioner shall 761 cause an arbitrator to be selected under the procedures in section 42 of chapter 71 within 3 days 762 of receipt of petition and the arbitrator shall conduct and complete a hearing within 10 days of 763 receipt of the petition; provided further, that in reviewing dismissal decisions, the arbitrator shall 764 consider the components of the turnaround plan and shall also consider any personnel 765 evaluations conducted that are consistent with the guidelines established under section 1B; and 766 provided, further, that the arbitrator's decision shall be issued within 10 days from the 767 completion of the hearing.

The receiver shall have decision-making authority, subject to the approval of the commissioner, for the hiring or assignment of all administrators, teachers, and staff in the district, provided, however, that both the receiver and the person seeking a position in the district mutually agree to the hiring or assignment.

For a district with limited English-proficient students, the professional development and planning time for teachers and administrators identified in clauses (9) to (11), inclusive, shall include specific strategies and content designed to maximize the rapid academic achievement of limited English-proficient students in the district.

(e) If, after considering the recommendations of the group of stakeholders, under
subsection (d), the receiver considers it necessary to maximize the rapid academic achievement
of students in the district by altering the compensation, hours and working conditions of the
administrators, teachers, principals and staff in the district, including any schools designated as
needs improvement, underperforming or chronically underperforming, or by altering other

781 provisions of a contract or collective bargaining agreement applicable to the administrators, 782 teachers, principals and staff, the receiver may request that the school committee and any union 783 bargain or reopen the bargaining of the relevant collective bargaining agreements to facilitate 784 such achievement. The bargaining shall be conducted in good faith and completed not later than 785 30 days from the point at which the receiver requested that the parties bargain. The agreement 786 shall be subject to ratification within 10 business days by the bargaining unit members in the 787 district. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement within 30 days or if the agreement is not 788 ratified within 10 business days by the bargaining unit members in the district, the parties shall 789 submit remaining unresolved issues to a joint resolution committee for a dispute resolution 790 process on the next business day following the end of the 30 day bargaining period or failure to 791 ratify.

792 The joint resolution committee shall be comprised of 3 members, 1 of whom shall be 793 appointed by the employee organization within 3 business days following the submission of unresolved issues to the joint resolution committee, 1 of whom shall be appointed jointly by the 794 795 school committee and receiver within 3 business days following the submission of unresolved 796 issues to the joint resolution committee and 1 of whom shall be selected through the American 797 Arbitration Association who shall forthwith forward to the parties a list of three conciliators, reach of whom shall have professional experience in elementary and secondary education, from 799 which the parties may agree upon a single conciliator; provided, however, that if the parties 800 cannot select a conciliator from among the 3 within 3 business days, the American Arbitration 801 Association shall select a conciliator from the remaining names. The joint resolution committee shall conduct a dispute resolution process to be concluded within 10 business days of selection. This process shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration 803 804 Association and consistent with this section; provided however, that all members of the joint resolution committee must agree to any resolution. The fee for the process shall be shared 805 equally between the 2 parties involved. 806

The joint resolution committee shall consider the positions of the parties, the designation of the district as chronically underperforming, and the needs of the students in the district. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the unanimous decision of the joint resolution committee shall be dispositive of all the issues in dispute and shall be submitted to the parties within 10 business days of the close of the hearing. Under no circumstance shall a time extension be granted beyond 10 business days of the close of the hearing. In the event that a unanimous decision is not submitted to the parties within 10 business days, the commissioner will resolve all outstanding issues.

(f) The turnaround plan shall be authorized for a period of not more than 3 years, subject to subsection (h). The commissioner and receiver may jointly develop additional components of the plan and shall jointly develop annual goals for each component of the plan in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (d). The receiver shall be responsible for meeting the goals of the turnaround plan. (g) The commissioner and receiver shall provide a written report to the school committee
on a quarterly basis to provide specific information about the progress being made on the
implementation of the district's turnaround plan. One of the quarterly reports shall be the annual
evaluation required in subsection (h).

(h) The commissioner shall evaluate the performance of the receiver on not less than an
annual basis. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to assess the implementation of the
turnaround plan and determine whether the district has met the annual goals contained in the
turnaround plan. The evaluation shall be in writing and submitted to the board and the local
school committee no later than July 1 for the preceding school year.

829 If the commissioner determines that the district has met the annual performance goals 830 stated in the turnaround plan, the evaluation shall be considered sufficient and the 831 implementation of the turnaround plan shall continue.

If the commissioner determines that the receiver has not met 1 or more goals in the plan and the failure to meet the goals may be corrected through reasonable modification of the plan, the commissioner may amend the turnaround plan, as necessary. After assessing the implementation of the turnaround plan in the district, the commissioner may amend the plan if the commissioner determines that the amendment is necessary in view of subsequent changes in the district that affect 1 or more components of the plan, including, but not limited to, changes to contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or school district policies, in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (d). If the commissioner determines that the receiver has substantially failed to meet multiple goals in the turnaround plan, the commissioner may terminate such receiver.

842 (i) Upon the expiration of the turnaround plan, there shall be a reevaluation of a district's 843 status under this section. The board of elementary and secondary education shall adopt regulations providing for: (1) the removal of a designation of a district as chronically 844 underperforming; and (2) the transfer of the operation of a chronically underperforming district 845 846 from an external receiver to the superintendent and school committee, based on the improvement 847 of the district. The regulations shall include provisions to allow a district to retain measures 848 adopted in a turnaround plan. The regulations shall also include provisions that clearly identify 849 the conditions under which the powers granted to the commissioner and board under this section 850 shall cease to apply to a district previously designated as chronically underperforming. At any time after a chronically underperforming district has been placed in receivership, the school 851 852 committee of the district may petition the commissioner for a determination as to whether the 853 turnaround plan adopted under subsection (b) should be modified or eliminated and whether the school district shall no longer be designated as chronically underperforming. The decision of the 855 commissioner shall be based on regulations adopted by the board. A school committee may seek 856 review by the board of an adverse determination.

(j) If, on the basis of the regulations adopted by the board under subsection (i), a district
has not improved sufficiently to remove the designation of the district as chronically
underperforming, the commissioner may: (1) jointly determine subsequent annual goals for each
component of the turnaround plan with the receiver and renew the turnaround plan for an
additional period of not more than 3 years; or (2) create a new turnaround plan, consistent with
the requirements of this section.

863 (k) If a municipality has failed to fulfill its fiscal responsibilities under chapter 70, the commissioner may declare the school district as chronically underperforming, subject to the 864 approval of the board. The municipality's mayor or chairman of the board of selectmen shall 865 866 have the opportunity to present evidence to the board. A vote by the board that a school district is 867 chronically underperforming for fiscal reasons shall authorize the commissioner to petition the 868 commissioner of revenue to require an increase in funds for the school district, alleging that the 869 amount necessary in the municipality for the support of public schools has not been included in 870 the annual budget appropriations. The commissioner of revenue shall determine the amount of 871 any deficiency under the sums required under chapter 70, if any, and issue an order compelling 872 the municipality to provide a sum of money equal to such deficiency. If the municipality does not provide a sum of money equal to such deficiency, the commissioner of revenue, under 873 874 section 23 of chapter 59, shall not approve the tax rate of the municipality for the fiscal year until the deficiency is alleviated. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as creating a cause of 875 876 action for educational malpractice by students or their parents, guardians or persons acting as 877 parents.

If the district is designated as chronically underperforming under this subsection, the provisions of this subsection shall supersede those in subsections (a) to (j), inclusive. A district may be declared chronically underperforming under this subsection and subsection (a), in which case the provisions of this subsection and subsections (a) to (j), inclusive, shall apply.

882 SECTION 6. Subsection (b) of section 15 of chapter 70B of the General Laws, as so 883 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 62, the word "may" and inserting in place 884 thereof the following word:- shall.

885 SECTION 7. Section 89 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby 886 amended by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(c) A commonwealth charter school shall be a public school, operated under a charter
granted by the board, which operates independently of a school committee and is managed by a
board of trustees. The board of trustees of a commonwealth charter school, upon receiving a
charter from the board, shall be deemed to be public agents authorized by the commonwealth to
supervise and control the charter school.

A Horace Mann charter school shall be a public school or part of a public school operated under a charter approved by the school committee and the local collective bargaining 894 unit in the district in which the school is located; provided that all charters shall be granted by the

895 board of elementary and secondary education. A Horace Mann charter school shall have a

896 memorandum of understanding with the school committee of the district in which the charter

school is located which, at a minimum, defines the services and facilities to be provided by the

898 district to the charter school and states the funding of the charter school by the district. A Horace

899 Mann charter school shall be operated and managed by a board of trustees independent of the

900 school committee which approved the school. The board of trustees may include a member of the

901 school committee.

A Horace Mann charter school established as a conversion of an existing public school shall not require approval of the local collective bargaining unit, but shall require a memorandum

904 of understanding regarding any waivers to applicable collective bargaining agreements; provided

905 further, that the memorandum of understanding shall be approved by a majority of the school

906 faculty; provided, further, that if the memorandum of understanding is not approved by a

907 majority of the school faculty at least 30 days before the scheduled opening of the school, the

908 charter school shall operate under the terms of its charter until an agreement is reached; provided

909 further, that the local collective bargaining unit shall not be required to approve the charter, its

910 renewal or an amendment to the charter; and provided further, that Horace Mann charter schools

911 that are conversions of existing public schools shall not count toward the maximum number of

912 Horace Mann charter schools stated in clause (1) of subsection (i).

913 SECTION 8. Said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby further 914 amended by striking out subsection (i) and inserting in place thereof the following:-

915 (i)(1) Not more than 120 charter schools shall be allowed to operate in the

916 commonwealth at any time, excluding those approved under subsection (c) of this section or

917 paragraph (3) of this subsection.

918 Of the 120 charter schools, not more than 48 shall be Horace Mann charter schools; 919 provided, however, 24 of the 48 Horace Mann charter schools shall not be subject to the 920 requirement of an agreement with the local collective bargaining unit prior to board approval and

920 requirement of an agreement with the local conjective barganing unit prior to board approval and

921 the local collective bargaining unit shall not be required to approve the charter, its renewal, or an 922 amendment to the charter; provided, further, that after the charters for these 24 Horace Mann

922 charter schools have been granted by the board, the schools shall develop a memorandum of

924 understanding with the school committee and the local union regarding any waivers to applicable

925 collective bargaining agreements; provided, further, that if an agreement is not reached on the

926 memorandum of understanding at least 30 days before the scheduled opening of the school, the

927 charter school shall operate under the terms of its charter until an agreement is reached; and

928 provided, further, that not less than 10 of the 24 Horace Mann charter schools described in this

929 subsection shall be located in a municipality with more than 500,000 residents.

930 Not more than 72 of the 120 charter schools shall be commonwealth charter schools. The

board shall not approve a new commonwealth charter school in any community with a

932 population of less than 30,000 as determined by the most recent United States Census estimate,

933 unless it is a regional charter school.

Applications to establish a charter school shall be submitted to the board annually by November 15. The board shall review the applications and grant new charters in February of the following year. The board may establish a different application schedule for Horace Mann charter school applications submitted by a school designated as needs improvement,

938 underperforming or chronically underperforming under section 1J of chapter 69.

(2) In any fiscal year, no public school district's total charter school tuition payment to
commonwealth charter schools shall exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending;
provided, however, that a public school district's total charter tuition payment to commonwealth
charter schools shall not exceed 18 per cent of the district's net school spending if the school
district qualifies under paragraph (3). The commonwealth shall incur charter school tuition
payments for siblings attending commonwealth charter schools to the extent that their attendance
would otherwise cause the school district's charter school tuition payments to exceed 9 per cent
of the school district's net school spending or 18 per cent for those districts that qualify under
said paragraph (3).

Not less than 2 of the new commonwealth charters approved by the board in any year shall be granted for charter schools located in districts where overall student performance on the statewide assessment system approved by the board under section 1I of chapter 69 is in the lowest 10 per cent statewide in the 2 years preceding the charter application.

In any fiscal year, the board shall approve only 1 regional charter school application of any commonwealth charter school located in a school district where overall student performance on the statewide assessment system is in the top 10 per cent in the year preceding charter application. The board may give priority to applicants that have demonstrated broad community support, an innovative educational plan, a demonstrated commitment to assisting the district in which it is located in bringing about educational change and a record of operating at least 1 school or similar program that demonstrates academic success and organizational viability and serves student populations similar to those the proposed school seeks to serve.

(3) In any fiscal year, if the board determines based on student performance data
collected under section 1I, the district is in the lowest 10 per cent of all statewide student
performance scores released in the 2 consecutive school years before the date the charter school
application is submitted, the school district's total charter school tuition payment to
commonwealth charter schools may exceed 9 per cent of the district's net school spending but
shall not exceed 18 per cent. For a district qualifying under this paragraph whose charter school
tuition payments exceed 9 per cent of the school district's net school spending, the board shall

967 only approve an application for the establishment of a commonwealth charter school if an 968 applicant, or a provider with which an applicant proposes to contract, has a record of operating at 969 least 1 school or similar program that demonstrates academic success and organizational viability 970 and serves student populations similar to those the proposed school seeks to serve, from the 971 following categories of students, those: (i) eligible for free lunch; (ii) eligible for reduced price 972 lunch; (iii) that require special education; (iv) limited English-proficient of similar language proficiency level as measured by the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment 973 974 examination; (v) sub-proficient, which shall mean students who have scored in the "needs 975 improvement", "warning" or "failing" categories on the mathematics or English language arts 976 exams of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System for 2 of the past 3 years or as defined by the department using a similar measurement; (vi) who are designated as at risk of 977 978 dropping out of school based on predictors determined by the department; (vii) who have 979 dropped out of school; or (viii) other at-risk students who should be targeted to eliminate

980 achievement gaps among different groups of students.

The provisions of this paragraph regarding the record of a charter school applicant or a provider with which an applicant proposes to contract shall not apply to an application for the establishment of a commonwealth charter school if the charter school will serve students who live in an area of a city or town that either physically lacks a district school serving the grades proposed for the charter school or has an insufficient number of open seats in the district schools the students are eligible to attend to serve those students.

For a district approaching its net school spending cap, the board shall give preference to applications from providers building networks of schools in more than 1 municipality.

989 The recruitment and retention plan of charter schools approved under this paragraph 990 shall, in addition to the requirements under subsections (e) and (f), include, but not limited to a 991 detailed description of deliberate, specific strategies the charter school shall use to attract, enroll 992 and retain a student population that, when compared to students in similar grades in schools from 993 which the charter school shall enroll students, contains a comparable or greater percentage of (i) 994 special education students or students who are limited English-proficient or similar language 995 proficiency as measured by the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment examination and 996 (ii) 2 or more of the following categories: students eligible for free lunch; students eligible for 997 reduced price lunch; students who have scored in the "needs improvement", "warning" or "failing" categories on the mathematics or English language arts exams of the Massachusetts 998 999 Comprehensive Assessment System for 2 of the past 3 years or as defined by the department 1000 using a similar measurement; students who are determined to be at risk of dropping out of school 1001 based on predictors determined by the department; students who have dropped out of school; or 1002 other at-risk students who should be targeted in order to eliminate achievement gaps among different groups of students. A charter school approved under this section shall supply a mailing 1003 1004 in the most prevalent languages of the district the charter is authorized to serve to a third party 1005 mail house and pay for it to be copied and mailed to eligible students. If a school is or shall be

1006 located in a district with 10 per cent or more of limited English-proficient students, the

- 1007 recruitment strategies shall include a variety of outreach efforts in the most prevalent languages
- 1008 of the district. The recruitment and retention plan shall be updated each year to account for

1009 changes in both district and charter school enrollment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a

1010 commonwealth charter school that enrolls only students who live in a specific geographic area of

1011 a city or town shall complete a recruitment and retention plan that is specific to the students who

1012 live in the enrollment area.

1013 If a district is no longer in the lowest 10 per cent, the net school spending cap shall be 9 1014 per cent, unless the district net school spending was above 9 per cent in the year prior to moving 1015 out of the lowest 10 per cent in which case the net school spending cap shall remain at the higher 1016 level plus enrollment previously approved by the board. The department shall determine and 1017 make available to the public a list of the school districts in said lowest 10 per cent.

1018 SECTION 9. Paragraph (5) of subsection (k) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so 1019 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "schools;", in line 302, the following 1020 words:- and provided further, that a Horace Mann charter school shall not be subject to chapter 1021 30B for the purpose of contracting with another person that shall manage or operate the school;

1022 SECTION 10. Subsection (n) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is 1023 hereby amended by striking out the first and second paragraphs and inserting in place thereof the 1024 following paragraphs:-

(n) Preference for enrollment in a commonwealth charter school shall be given to
students who reside in the city or town in which the charter school is located. Priority for
enrollment in a Horace Mann charter school shall be given first to students actually enrolled in
the school on the date that the application is filed with the board and to their siblings; second to
other students actually enrolled in the public schools of the district where the Horace Mann
charter school is to be located; and third to other resident students. Notwithstanding the
foregoing, a commonwealth charter school or a Horace Mann charter school may limit
enrollment in the school to students who reside in a specific geographic area of a city or town.

1033 If the total number of students who are eligible to attend and apply to a charter school and who reside in the city or town in which the charter school is located or who reside in the school's 1034 1035 geographic enrollment area or are siblings of students already attending said charter school is 1036 greater than the number of spaces available, an admissions lottery, including all eligible students 1037 applying, shall be held to fill all of the spaces in that school from among the students; provided, however, that a lottery conducted for a charter school shall reflect the enrollment priorities of this 1038 1039 subsection. Notwithstanding this subsection, upon application by the board of trustees of a 1040 charter school or by the persons or entities seeking to establish a charter school, the board may amend or grant a charter designating such school a regional charter school; provided, however, 1041 1042 that such regional charter school shall be exempt from the local preference provision of this

1043 paragraph; provided further, that such regional charter school shall continue to grant a preference

1044 to siblings of currently enrolled students; and provided further, that if the number of applicants

1045 remaining is greater than the number of spaces available, such regional charter school shall

1046 conduct a single lottery to determine which applicants shall be admitted.

1047 SECTION 11. Subsection (cc) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is 1048 hereby amended by striking out, in line 546, the words "the limitations" and inserting in place 1049 thereof the following words:- those limits, including limits on the basis of attendance zones or 1050 other geographic subdivisions of the district.

1051 SECTION 12. Subsection (dd) of said section 89 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is 1052 hereby amended by striking out, in lines 576 to 586, inclusive, the second sentence and inserting 1053 in place thereof the following sentence:-

The board shall develop procedures and guidelines for revocation, amendment and renewal of a school's charter; provided, however, that an amendment or renewal of a charter for a Horace Mann charter school shall be subject to approval by majority vote of the school committee and local collective bargaining unit in the district where the charter school is located only to the extent that its initial charter required such approval; and provided, further, that a commonwealth charter shall not be renewed unless the board of trustees of the charter school has documented in a manner approved by the board that the commonwealth charter school has provided models for replication and best practices to the commissioner and to other public schools in the district where the charter school is located.

1063 SECTION 13. Subsection (d) of section 92 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby 1064 amended by inserting after the word "plan.", in line 44, the following sentence:- An Innovation 1065 School shall not be subject to chapter 30B for the purpose of contracting with the external 1066 partner.

1067SECTION 14. Subsection (c) of section 17 of chapter 268A of the General Laws, as so1068appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

1069 This section shall not prevent an employee of a school district from accepting

1070 compensation for the performance of his duties from an organization that has entered into an

1071 agreement with the school district to administer an education program, provided, however, that

1072 the principal of the school in which the employee works has provided his written agreement and

1073 the written agreement is sent to the human resources department head.

SECTION 15. Section 9 of this act shall apply to all Horace Mann charter schoolsapproved after January 1, 2011.

1076 SECTION 16. Section 11 of this act shall not apply to transportation provided on the 1077 effective day of this act to a student attending a commonwealth charter school as long as the 1078 student attends the same school he is attending on the effective day of this act.