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**Massachusetts Business and Higher Education Leaders Call for State to Require Students to Pass End-of-Course Assessments for High School Graduation**

**Boston, MA** – Business and higher education leaders across Massachusetts issued a joint statement today calling for the state to ensure all students attain the foundational academic knowledge and skills they will need for success after high school by requiring students to pass common assessments in core academic subjects to earn a high school diploma.

The Governor’s Statewide High School Graduation Council issued its [final working group report](#) last week that establishes a strong foundation for a new graduation framework. Key aspects of the final graduation standard still need to be defined including how end-of-course assessments will count meaningfully toward meeting the graduation standard.

Business and higher education officials across the state issued the following statement:

**A high school diploma awarded in Massachusetts should represent real readiness for post-secondary success.** The most inequitable outcome is granting students a diploma indicating readiness for college and/or career when, in fact, they’re not. When students graduate without mastering core academic skills, they face fewer opportunities, lower earnings, and diminished confidence and our economy suffers.

As business, college, and community leaders, we urge the Healey Administration to adopt a rigorous, statewide graduation standard that ensures every student has achieved mastery of essential academic and durable skills. Requiring coursework alone is not enough; students should be required to pass common sense, state-designed, end-of-course assessments in core subjects to graduate from high school. End-of-course assessments provide an objective clear, fair, and consistent measure of readiness regardless of zip code or background. Massachusetts owes its students the opportunity to earn a diploma that truly prepares them for college, careers, and civic life.

Signed,

Karen Andreas, President & CEO, North Shore Chamber of Commerce

Jay Ash, President & CEO, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

Tim Cahill, President & CEO, South Shore Chamber of Commerce

JD Chesloff, President & CEO, Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Nicholas M. Christ, Chairman & CEO, BayCoast Bank

Christopher Cooney, President & CEO, Metro South Chamber of Commerce

Zach Donah, President & CEO, Massachusetts Society of CPAs

Melissa Fetterhoff, President & CEO, Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

Doug Howgate, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

Jon Hurst, President, Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM)

Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education

Chuck Longfield, President, Longfield Family Foundation

Nate Mackinnon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges

Elizabeth Mahoney, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, Massachusetts High Technology Council

Kathie Mahoney, President, MassMEP

Robert J. McCarron, President & CEO, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts

Timothy Murray, President & CEO, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

Amy Naples, Executive Director, Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce; Duxbury Chamber of Commerce

Roy Nascimento, President & CEO, North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce

Peter Nessen, President, Nessen Associates, Ltd.

Kendalle Burlin O'Connell, President & CEO, MassBio

Marie Oliva, President & CEO, Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce

Thomas O'Rourke, President & CEO, Neponset River Regional Chamber

Mike O'Sullivan, CEO, One SouthCoast Chamber

James E. Rooney, President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández, President, Urban College of Boston

Marie Schwartz, Founder, TeenLife

Tamara Small, CEO, NAIOP Massachusetts

Brooke Thomson, President & CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Aaron Vega, President and CEO, Western Mass Economic Development Council

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