**Sent:** Tuesday, January 02, 2018 8:21 PM

**To:** MCAS

**Subject:** Proposed MCAS graduation requirement changes

As an advocate for students with special needs, I appreciate all that the state has done to close the achievement gap for students with disabilities, as well as other "high needs" subgroups.

I have reviewed Weston's most recent MCAS results - please see this report -

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.westonpac.org_uploads_3_1_5_0_31506421_weston-5Fpac-5Fmcas-5Freport-5F2017-5Ffinal.docx&d=DwIFAg&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=z-kyp6qUudXQ5QAHKMuM52U5sVXP7W03w8K75CE5bhw&m=8WLrF_x-DheuLvskz_V0jDjTEBQEvOtWstmVNzYPOxA&s=oRCrIFty9I2Zq2e3TEDK3hESDGF3sHKgikYwWJplnpg&e>=

As well as our assessment and accountability web page -

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.westonpac.org_wps-2Dassessment-2Dand-2Daccountability.html&d=DwIFAg&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=z-kyp6qUudXQ5QAHKMuM52U5sVXP7W03w8K75CE5bhw&m=8WLrF_x-DheuLvskz_V0jDjTEBQEvOtWstmVNzYPOxA&s=tOyylvebRl9ayIl6E2caDPP9h0ZmBa7dzGN4HKDAHFQ&e>=

I have also reviewed the statewide results for students with disabilities. As many others have noted, it was the first year for the "next gen" assessments, however, I am concerned about the performance of students with special needs on the new tests.

I hope that with the proposed changes in the regulations that students with special needs, as well as students in other high needs subgroups, will have ample alternatives to demonstrate their knowledge and attain their high school CD. While we continue to partner with our district in efforts to close the achievement gap, we also want to ensure that as many students as possible have the opportunity to receive a diploma and pursue college and career opportunities. I hope that the state can find a balance between "raising the bar" and ensuring that high needs students continue to have equitable access to the many opportunities for advancement that a high school diploma provides.

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 03, 2018 10:17 AM

**To:** MCAS

**Subject:** Graduation requirements

As a parent of 3 children with language based learning disabilities, dyslexia Therapist , education advocate, and member of AG Maura Healey’s Disability Rights Committee, I urge your office to correct our literacy crisis before we enact this requirement. If our students have not been provided appropriate reading instruction, we cannot expect them to meet this rigorous requirement.

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 03, 2018 8:09 PM
**To:** MCAS
**Subject:** Proposed changes to MCAS graduation requirement regulations

I just read through the proposed changes and they look great. The only thing that I can see as a possible issue is the definition of the Graduating Class.

The proposed regulations define them as:

**Graduating Class** For purposes of603 CMR 30.00, students are assigned to the graduating class of the cohort of students they join when they first enter grades 9-12 in a Massachusetts public school system. For example, a student first entering 9th grade in fall 2017 belongs to the class of 2021, a student entering as a 10th grader in fall of 2017 belongs to the class of 2020, and so forth. Once a student is assigned a particular cohort, the student's graduating class for purposes of 603 CMR 30.00 never changes.

It seems to me that students who are retained in high school or those students who have special education needs and require services beyond grade 12, but are eventually able to meet the MCAS requirements are not accounted for in the proposed definition.