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Bill S291

Massachusetts schools need an adequacy study

It's time to reassess what a great school looks like. While all Massachusetts educators are familiar with the frameworks established by the Board of Education, it is increasingly clear that much of what makes a great school is not addressed by the frameworks. Educators and parents now understand that a great school also requires art, music, early education programs, and physical education.

The Massachusetts School Library Association believes that our state needs a strong commitment to its school libraries. Studies from 14 states demonstrate a link between student achievement on reading tests, literacy, or general learning and an adequately staffed and funded school library program¹. This includes a study conducted at Simmons College showing that schools with library programs have higher MCAS scores, regardless of socio-economic or educational levels of the community.

S291 would provide us with an opportunity to evaluate our schools carefully and ensure their excellence. We believe that a great education includes access to a great school library with provisions for professional staffing and collection development.

The members of the Massachusetts School Library Association endorse bill S291.

For complete text of Senate bill 291, please see:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st00/st00291.htm>

¹ For specific study results consult the Massachusetts School Library Association website (www.maschoollibraries.org)