

HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

Linda G. Dwight



From: School Committee, Harvard Public Schools
Superintendent, Harvard Public Schools

To: Governor Charlie Baker
Secretary of Education James Peyser
Senate President Karen Spilka
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
State Senator Jamie Eldridge
State Representative Dan Sena

Cc: Senator Elizabeth Warren
Senator Ed Markey
Representative Lori Trahan
Town of Harvard Select Board
Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Date: December 14, 2020

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE-FUNDED SARS-CoV-2 SURVEILLANCE TESTING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Harvard Public Schools remain committed to delivering high-quality in-person instruction while ensuring the health and safety of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases statewide are rapidly rising; and

WHEREAS, higher community prevalence can be expected to result in more cases entering schools; and

WHEREAS, institutions of higher education in Massachusetts that implemented comprehensive testing programs this fall were able to swiftly identify and isolate often asymptomatic positive individuals and thus avoid community spread, never exceeding a seven-day weighted average positive test rate of 0.37%, whereas the statewide positive test rate exceeded 3% by the end of November; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: that the members of the Harvard School Committee join with the Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, including our United States Senators and House of Representative members, to advocate for and approve funding for easily accessible, reliable, rapid turnaround, ongoing weekly or twice-weekly surveillance testing in our public schools.

On roll call, the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.