



An Act to Maintain Short Term Objectives for Students with Disabilities
S. 222

Sen Creem, Rep. Peisch-Lead Sponsors

Summary of the Bill

- This bill would require school districts to continue the current practice of including and maintaining short term objectives and benchmarks in the IEPs of all students with disabilities.
- A recent change in federal law removed the statutory requirement and this bill would ensure the *continuation of current practice*, --by requiring short term objectives in state law.
- At least 13 states currently require short term objectives in IEPs, including Rhode Island, New Jersey and Maryland.
- The inclusion of measurable short term objectives in IEPs is important to assist in measuring a student's progress, and ensure accountability.
- Short term objectives, as a system to measure accountability for learning, is critically important when all students, including students with disabilities must ultimately pass MCAS.
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has agreed to direct school districts to maintain short term objectives in IEPs at this point in time, but this is such a critical protection for students with disabilities it is important to maintain these rights more permanently in our state law.
- There is no cost associated with this bill, as it does not require any change in practice or procedure but rather codifies critical protections currently in place.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children 9-28-09