New Competency Determination Options for BBRSD 1/6/25

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MCAS testing will continue to take place. The requirements for districts in developing a process to determine if a student has met the new standard to earn a CD as of 12/11/24 is:

DESE recommends all districts serving high school students should develop a process that is:

- Aligned to the new language of the stature in a way that allows districts to demonstrate students have met the new requirements.
- Approved by the governing board of the district (e.g. school committee, board of trustees etc.).
- Shared with all students, families/guardians, and strict stakeholders.
- Publicly available in multiple languages.

Current Graduation Requirements for Tahanto:

Promotion and Graduation Requirements Credits Required to Advance and to Graduate
To advance to Credits required :

Grade 10: 25
Grade 11: 55
Grade 12: 80
To Graduate: 115

Only students who have completed all requirements for graduation are eligible to participate in the graduation exercises. Students must earn 115 credits to graduate, in addition to passing specific courses and MCAS tests shown below.

Course	**Years**	**Credits**
English	4	20
Math	4	20
History	3	15
Science	3 Years of Lab Science	15
Physical Education	2	5 (2.5 per year)
Health	1 course	2.5
Technology	1 course	2.5

Options for CD for the 24-25 School year:

Option A * Recommended	**Option B**	**Option C**
Continue to use MCAS as a graduation requirement this year. This summer when we will have more guidance from DESE and can determine what other districts are doing we can then make a plan for the following school year.	Discontinue MCAS as a graduation requirement however still require those students who earn a “not meeting” rating to retake the test until passing score is accomplished, with supports put in place prior to re-testing. Those students who earn a “needs improvement” will still be given interventions and will be progress monitored through coursework and taking midterm and final exams successfully (as has been done in the EPP process for students who have scored “not meeting” in the past.)	Discontinue use of MCAS as graduation requirement and follow current handbook requirements for graduation as is, successfully completing coursework in required courses, including midterm and final exams.
Pros: 1. No change in practice 2. Motivation for students to take the test seriously 3. Accountability ratings still exist through DESE 4. This does not impact our current seniors	Pros: 1. Motivation still exists for students to take the exam seriously as they will have to retake if they do not pass. 2. Increased progress monitoring and tiered interventions for those students who are not meeting or need improvement.	Pros: 1. Community members who voted to remove MCAs as a graduation requirement will be in support of this option.
Cons: 1. Some members of the community that voted for the discontinued use of MCAS as a graduation		Cons: 1. Students may not take the test as seriously which can impact our ability to use the data for instructional

requirement may find dissatisfaction with this decision. 2. Concern about students moving out of district to a district that doesn't require MCAS		decision making and for accountability ratings from DESE.

The Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Awards, John and Abigail Adams Scholarship program, and the State Seal of Biliteracy program will not be changed because of the new law. These programs will continue to utilize scores from MCAS assessments as qualifications for the award programs. While the new law changed the requirements for earning a CD, it did not change the requirements for any of these programs.

Resources:

For Information on EPP process: https://www.doe.mass.edu/assessment/epp/qa.html