TAHANTO REGIONAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

BERLIN-BOYLSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Lisa Sequeira, Principal

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To: Dr. Albert Ganem, Jr., Interim Superintendent of Schools
From: Lisa Sequeira, Principal, Tahanto Regional Middle High School
Date: October 7, 2025
Subject: Review and Recommendation Regarding Tahanto's Graduation and Competency Requirements

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Dear Mr. Ganem,

As part of our district's submission of competency and graduation requirements to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), we have reviewed Tahanto's current policies in alignment with the template provided by the state.

Last year, Tahanto made the decision to retain passage of the ELA, Mathematics, and Science MCAS exams as local graduation requirements, even after the November 2024 statewide ballot vote eliminated MCAS as a state-level graduation requirement. The documents submitted for your review reflect our current practice, as previously adopted, within the state's competency determination framework.

After careful consideration and consultation with surrounding Mid-Wachusett districts, it is my recommendation that we remove MCAS as a local graduation requirement. While I remain confident in our students' abilities to perform successfully on these assessments, maintaining MCAS as a local requirement would make Tahanto the only Mid-Wachusett district to do so. All other districts have updated their policies to reflect the outcome of the November ballot vote, aligning local graduation standards with the revised state expectations.

This recommendation does not reflect any hesitation regarding the value or rigor of the MCAS assessment. Rather, it is grounded in the importance of regional consistency, equity, and transparency for our students and families as they plan for graduation, postsecondary goals, and transitions.

Thank you for reviewing the attached policy draft excluding MCAS as a graduation requirement. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this recommendation further and to ensure our policies remain both rigorous and equitable.

Sincerely,
Lisa Sequeira
Principal
Tahanto Regional Middle High School