
MEMORANDUM

TO: School Committee

FROM: Ted Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools
Lesley Ryan Miller, Chief of Teaching and Learning
Apryl Clarkson, Senior Executive Director of Data and Accountability

CC: Mary Skipper, Superintendent
Linda Chen, Senior Deputy Superintendent of Academics

DATE: February 5, 2025

RE: Competency Determination

The district has been working to develop Competency Determination requirements for the graduating class of 2025 and earlier who are no longer eligible for MCAS-based Competency Determination following the passage of Ballot Initiative #2 in the fall of 2024, which eliminated the MCAS as a graduation requirement.

Leveraging the expertise of School Leaders and multiple departments, including Secondary Schools, Teaching and Learning, Data and Accountability, Specialized Services, and Multilingual and Multicultural Education, the district recommends the following:

For the graduating class of 2025 and earlier who are no longer eligible to meet competency through the MCAS retest or MCAS appeal processes, a student can show competency with a passing grade in identified eligible English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science courses. The class must demonstrate *“mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one I administered in 2023”*. The group recommends the following [list](#) of BPS courses in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics (Math), and Science for the new Competency Determination. In some cases, students will need more than one course to ensure that all standards are covered (such as semesterized courses).

We will ask for the School Committee’s approval of the proposed Competency Determination for the Class of 2025 at the February 26 meeting. As additional guidance is shared by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and [the Governor’s Council](#), we will accordingly revise Competency Determination for the Class of 2026 and future classes and come back to present before the School Committee.