



# Competency Determination Update

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Academics Division  
February 5, 2025



# Summary of Statute Change

- To graduate from high school, students must:
  - Meet their school's local graduation requirements
  - Meet the "Competency Determination"
- As a result of the passage of Ballot initiative #2 in November 2024, the MCAS was eliminated as the mechanism for students to meet the Competency Determination (CD).
- The law that was passed as a result of the Ballot Initiative requires coursework be used to demonstrate competency.

As outlined in the new statute language, a student who has not yet earned a CD must demonstrate: *"mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge... by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing 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, and in any additional areas determined by the board."*



# Timeline

November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Question 2 passed</li></ul>
December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Guidance</a> released from DESE</li></ul>
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● BPS proposed a CD requirement for Class of 2025 and reviewed with school leaders</li><li>● Governor's Council announced</li></ul>
February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Work with schools to ensure Class of 2025 students are enrolled in necessary courses to meet CD</li></ul>
March - September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Determine CD requirements for Class of 2026, dependent on additional guidance received from DESE</li><li>● Conduct additional stakeholder engagement</li></ul>
December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Anticipated recommendations from Governor's Council</li></ul>



# Class of 2025 Summary

## Number of Students who have Met the CD through MCAS Only

- 80% (3,353) students in the Class of 2025 (Grade 12 students) have met CD in all subjects through MCAS
- 841 students missing CD in:
  - 1 subject (N=408)
  - 2 subjects (N=195)
  - 3 subjects (N=238)

	Total Population	Met All Three	
		N	%
<b>All Students</b>	4195	3353	79.9%
<b>SWD</b>	969	558	57.6%
<b>Non-Swd</b>	3225	2795	86.7%
<b>EL</b>	943	550	58.3%
<b>Non-EL</b>	3251	2803	86.2%
<b>Exam Schools</b>	941	940	99.9%
<b>Alternative Schools*</b>	413	220	53.3%

\* Alternative Ed Schools included: Boston Adult Tech Academy, Boston Collaborative High School, Greater Egleston High School, Boston Day-Evening Academy, Community Academy



# Proposed Class of 2025 Competency Determination

- For the graduating class of 2025 and earlier, a student can show competency with a passing grade in identified eligible courses in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.
- The group recommends the following [list](#) of BPS courses as they “*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*”.
- If approved, the Office of Secondary Schools will support schools in determining which students in the class of 2025 and earlier meet the new competency determination requirements.