

## COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

In addition to meeting the local graduation requirements articulated in School Committee Policy IKF, a student must meet the competency determination articulated in MGL [c. 69 sect. 1D](#) and in 603 CMR [30.00-30.05](#) in order to receive their high school diploma from North Middlesex Regional School District.

According to the statute and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the competency determination shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, foreign languages, and English language arts (ELA). It shall represent a determination that a particular student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas 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. The tables below show the pathways for meeting Competency Determination.

### For Graduating Class of 2026

<i>Pathway One - Passing score on</i>	<i>Pathway Two - Successfully passing*</i>	<i>Pathway Three - Review by CD Assessment Panel</i>
ELA MCAS	English 9 & English 10 (College Prep/Accelerated)	Completion of two years of English (any level)*
Math MCAS	Algebra I & Geometry (College Prep/Accelerated)	Completion of two years of math (any level)*
STE MCAS	Lab Science Class	Completion of a lab Science (any level)*
		Portfolio submission evidencing competency in content area

\* Successfully passing/ Completion of a course means a final course grade of 65 or above.

### For Graduating Classes 2027 and Beyond

<i>Pathway One - Successfully passing*</i>	<i>Pathway Two - Review by CD Assessment Panel</i>
English 9 (College Prep/Accelerated) English 10 (College Prep/Accelerated)	Completion of two years of English (any level)*
Algebra I and Geometry classes (College Prep/Accelerated)	Completion of two years of math (any level)*
Lab Science Class	Completion of one lab Science (any level)*
US History Class	Completion of one US History Class
	Portfolio submission evidencing competency in content area

\* Successfully passing/ Completion of a course means a final course grade of 65 or above..

For a student who is participating in an alternative review process, the team will be led by the NMRHS Principal. The team will include the Assistant Principal, the student's counselor, and the curriculum leader(s) in the subject in question. Additionally, a special education teacher or ESL teacher will be included as necessary. Alternate courses that are found to meet the requirements of demonstrated competency within each content area may be used by the team to determine competency.

Students who enroll in the North Middlesex Regional High School after their ninth-grade year will be afforded the opportunity to earn the Competency Determination through successfully meeting the requirements as outlined in this policy and/or through a transcript review of prior coursework by a review panel under the direction of the Principal or his/her designee.

A student who did not graduate from NMRHS before 2025 because they did not meet the previous competency determination requirements can be considered for the current requirements through a review of the student's transcript conducted by a team of school personnel, including the NMRHS Principal, the NMRSD Assistant Superintendent, and the student's high school

counselor or counseling director. If current requirements are met in addition to other local graduation requirements, the student will be eligible to receive an NMRHS diploma.

Any student may appeal the district's decision to award or deny Competency Determination. Appeals must be made in writing (email is sufficient) to the Superintendent, North Middlesex Regional School District, 19 Main Street, Townsend, MA 01469. The Superintendent will decide the appeal no later than thirty (30) calendar days of the date of receipt of the written appeal. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district concerning the competency determination.

LEGAL REF:

M.G.L. [c. 69 s.1d](#)

603 CMR [30.00 - 30.05](#)

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Competency Determination

CROSS REF: Policy IKF Graduation Requirements

**Adopted by the NMRSD School Committee:**

Policy Committee Review: 8/6/2025

NMRSD First Vote: 8/12/2025

[NMRSD Adoption: September 16, 2025](#)

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