

# Secondary Schools Update



October 8, 2025

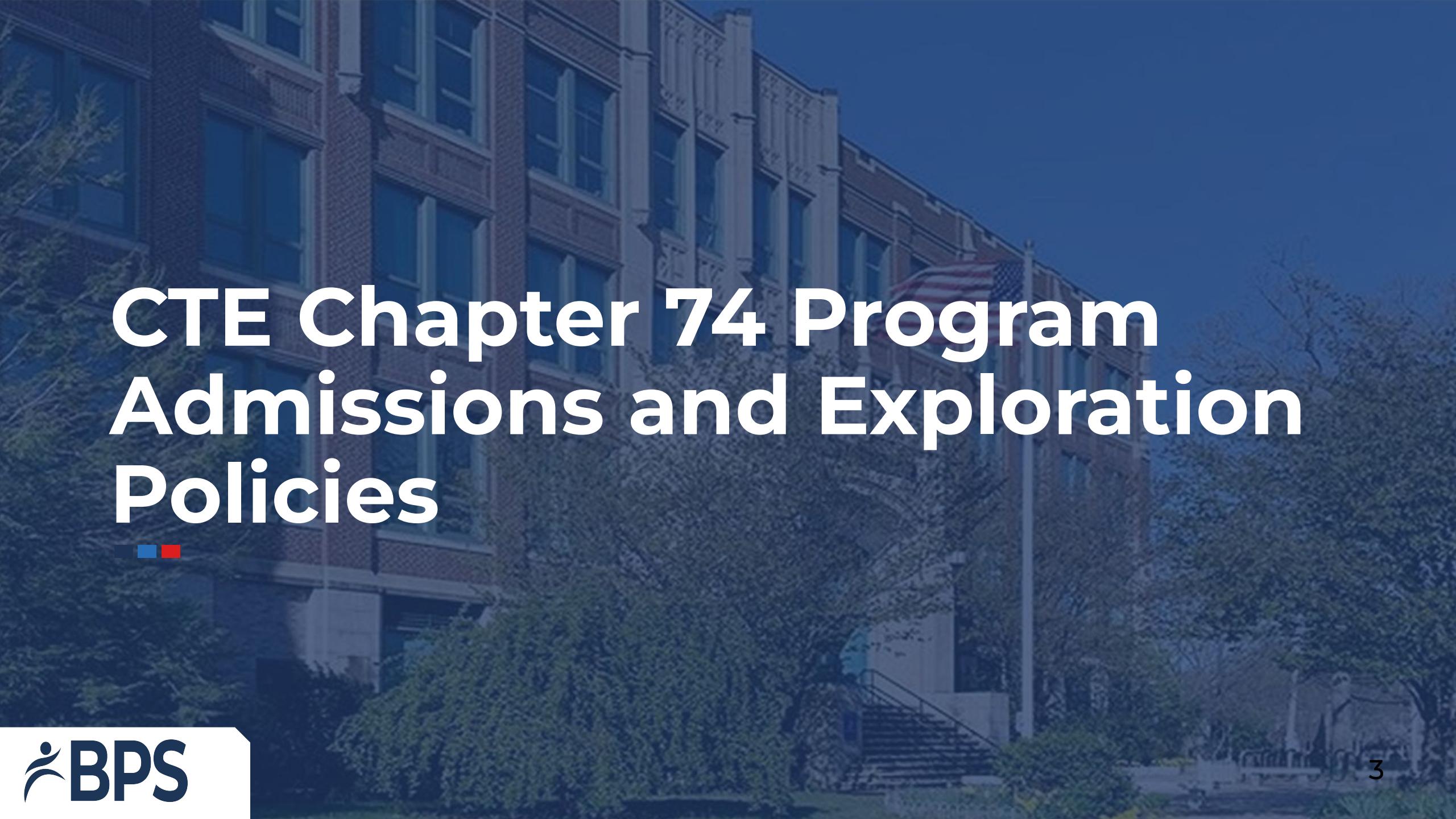
**Brett Dickens, Assistant Superintendent, College, Career & Life Readiness**  
**Dr. Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Interim Chief of Teaching and Learning**

# Secondary Schools Policy Update



In May 2025, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) voted on two regulation amendments that impact Boston Public Schools and that require School Committee approval:

1. New Career and Technical Education (CTE) Chapter 74 Programs\* Admissions and Middle School Pathway Exploration Policies
2. Updated Competency Determination Requirements

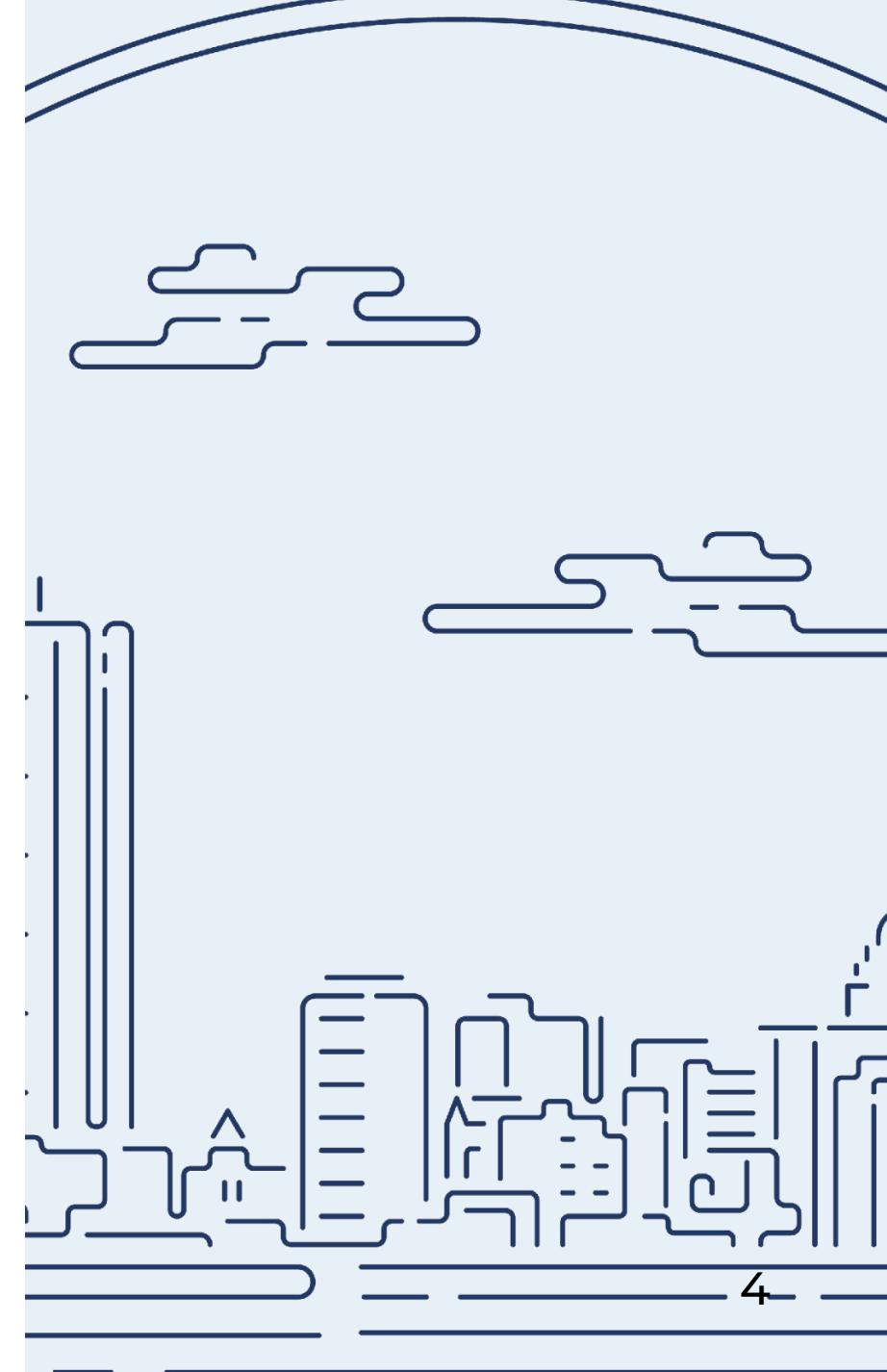


# CTE Chapter 74 Program Admissions and Exploration Policies



# Overview of DESE regulatory change

- 1. **Require CTE schools/programs with Chapter 74 approval to use a weighted or unweighted lottery system** for their admissions when applications exceed seats. **Set standardized criteria** that can be used in admissions considerations.
- 2. **Allow CTE schools/programs with Chapter 74 approval to require students to indicate “interest”** in career and technical education as a weight in their admissions lottery.
- 3. **Requires district to provide middle school students the opportunity to receive information and opportunities about CTE Chapter 74 programs** available to them.



# BPS CTE Chapter 74 Programming\*

	<b>School Level Admissions Policy</b>	<b>Program Level Admissions Policy</b>
<b>Schools Impacted</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Madison Park (gr 9-12, full school CTE)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English High School (gr 7-12, open enrollment)</li><li>• Boston Arts Academy (gr 9-12 pilot, special admissions)</li><li>• Boston Green Academy** (gr 7-12, Horace Mann Charter)</li><li>• EMK Academy for Health Careers** (gr 9-12, Horace Mann Charter)</li></ul>
<b>Current CH 74 Admissions Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students apply to the school through previously approved admissions policy</li><li>• Half year exploratory class in grade 9</li><li>• Students are placed in programs based on interest and exploratory participation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School-level and program-level admissions varies:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <u>English</u>: Open enrollment. Students opt into year-long grade 9 CH 74 exploratory, then admitted to grade 10 CH 74 program</li><li>◦ <u>BAA</u>: Special admissions process to school. Students complete a grade 9 exploratory in the first half of term 1 before being admitted to the CH 74 programs</li><li>◦ <u>BGA and EMK</u>: Charter lottery for school admission. Students enter directly into selected CH74 programs</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Changes Proposed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A weighted lottery would be conducted at the level of school admissions if student applications exceed seats</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A lottery would be conducted at the level of CH 74 program admissions if student applications exceed program seats</li></ul>

# **\*New\* CTE Ch 74 School-Level Admissions**



**School(s) impacted:** Madison Park Technical Vocational School

**Application Deadline:** February 13, 2026

**Lottery Process:** A weighted lottery will be used if applications received by the deadline exceed available seats for grade 9

- **Weights will be given for the following criteria:**
  - Attendance: Fewer than 27 unexcused, full-day absences
  - Behavior: No suspensions or expulsions for serious offenses under 37H or 37H1/2
  - Interest: Demonstrate interest in CTE education through participation in a tour, interview, video, etc.
- **Students will receive an extra entry to the lottery for every weight they meet** (max 4 entries).
  - The school will not “score” or “rank” applicants on this criteria, only apply the weight if the criteria has been met.
  - All Data considered will be only from the 270 days prior to the application, and not prior to the student’s 7th grade year.
  - Late applications will be run through an additional lottery after the waitlist is exhausted.

# \*New\* CTE Ch 74 Program-Level Admissions



**School(s) impacted:** English, BAA, BGA, EMK

**Application Deadline:** varies

**Lottery Process:** A straight lottery will be used at the entry to CTE programming (may be admission to an exploratory program or to specific Ch 74 programs, varies by school)

- Students are admitted to the school through their established admissions processes and then apply for admission to CH 74 programming, where a lottery will occur for either the exploratory course or for admittance to the individual programs.
  - Not all students at each school will choose to enroll in CTE programs.
- As Horace Mann Charter Schools, EMK and BGA will submit their own CTE admissions policies to DESE. These policies were developed in partnership with the BPS CTE team.
  - These program level admissions policies do not impact enrollment in Non-CH 74 CTE programs or Innovation Career Pathways, even at the same schools named above.

# \*New\* MS Pathway Exploration



**All 8th grade students at BPS must be given an opportunity to learn about careers and CTE Chapter 74 programs options available to them.**

- Students explore careers that interest them through MyCAP.
- Each school with Ch 74 programming will offer open houses, building tours, virtual tours, and will visit schools with 8th graders for informational presentations.
- BPS will send information home to 8th grade families in their home languages.



**Upcoming opportunities to learn about CTE Chapter 74 programs:**

- College, Career, and STEM Fair: October 18th
- School Showcase: December 13th
- Tours at Madison Park: Contact Admissions Manager, Shakeen Stewart ([ssstewart@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:ssstewart@bostonpublicschools.org)) to schedule
- CTE Website: More details and full policy will be available by November 10



# Competency Determination



# Competency Determination Timeline



<b>November 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question 2 passed, removing MCAS as a graduation requirement</li></ul>
<b>December 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Initial Guidance</a> released from DESE for the Class of 2025</li></ul>
<b>January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BPS forms CD Task Force</li><li>• BPS proposed a CD requirement for Class of 2025 and reviewed with school leaders</li><li>• Statewide Governor's Council creation announced</li></ul>
<b>February 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BPS worked with schools to ensure Class of 2025 students are enrolled in necessary courses to meet CD</li></ul>
<b>June 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BPS School Committee approved CD requirement for Class of 2026</li></ul>
<b>July 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DESE released <a href="#">updated CD requirements</a> for Class of 2026</li></ul>
<b>November 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District CD Policy that meets updated CD requirements must be approved by School Committee and submitted to DESE</li></ul>
<b>TBD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendations from Governor's Council</li></ul>



# Changes from Current Policy



Policy Component	Current Policy	Proposed Policy
Coursework requirements in each of the required subject areas (ELA, Math, Science), including the <u>specific courses identified as applicable for the CD</u>	✓	✓
Measure(s) the district will use to determine mastery in each of the named subject areas		✓
Specific language regarding considerations for Students with Disabilities and Multilingual Learners		✓
Specific language regarding considerations for late-enrolling students		✓
Description of the limited instances in which the district may use MCAS scores to determine competency		✓
Process for appeal CD decisions		✓
Process to request a transcript review		✓
Addition of <u>competency determination requirement</u> for U.S. History (starting with Class of 2027)		✓

# Measures to determine mastery



## Class of 2026

Passing grade (D- or higher) from [2026 Course list](#):

- 2 ELA/ESL courses
- 2 Math courses
- 1 Science Course

## Class of 2027 and 2028

Passing grade (D- or higher) from [2026 Course list](#):

- 2 ELA/ESL courses
- 2 Math courses
- 1 Science Course
- 1 US History Course

## Class of 2029 and beyond

Additional or adjusted metrics to be considered for future classes and may include raising the required grade to a C- or higher.

# Next Steps



At the November 5 School Committee meeting, we are asking for your vote to approve the following:

- District Career Technical Education Admissions Policy
- Middle School CTE Exploration Policy
- Updated Competency Determination Policy

# APPENDIX



# Current data projections (as of 9/16)



Data as of....	9/16/25	
<b>Class of 2026 on track to graduate with MassCore*</b>	<b>41%</b>	
% of students on track with each MassCore requirement*	ELA	79%
	Math	76%
	Science	84%
	Social Studies	82%
	Arts	71%
	World Language	73%
	Physical Education	59%
	Electives	82%

\*These numbers do not reflect a number of coding and policy exemptions that we are working to correct. When corrected, these numbers will go up.