

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

One of the requirements for graduation in Massachusetts is a determination of competency in subjects previously covered by the MCAS. In addition to other requirements for graduation, students must have been determined by the district to have achieved mastery of the common core of skills, competency, and knowledge in said areas, and satisfactorily completed 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.

Competency Determination Requirements

A determination of competency shall include:

Demonstrating a mastery of skills in English language arts, mathematics, and science; and the satisfactory completion of relevant coursework aligned to the standards measured by the high school English language arts, mathematics, and science MCAS assessments administered in 2023.

An additional requirement for mastery in US History will apply to the graduating class of 2027, and beyond.

To show mastery, a student must successfully complete, in accordance with the district's grading policy or by any other appropriate methodology as may be determined by the School Committee:

1. The final assessment for a course; or
2. A capstone or portfolio project; or
3. An equivalent measure identified in the district's CD policy.

A student enrolled in the Concord-Carlisle Regional Public School District will be determined to have satisfactorily completed coursework with a passing grade and earned full credit in accordance with the district's grading policy and the requirements outlined below:

Content Area	Coursework Requirements	Notes
English Language Arts	The equivalent of two years of high school English language arts courses.	To satisfy this course requirement, the English Language Arts courses must be taken in grades 9-12.
Mathematics	The equivalent of two years of high school math courses: <i>Option 1:</i> One year of Blended Algebra and one year of Geometry <i>Option 2:</i> One year of Geometry and one year of Algebra II.	To satisfy this course requirement, the math courses must be taken in grades 9-12.
Science	The equivalent of one year of any one of the following disciplines: Biology, Physics, Chemistry.	To satisfy this course requirement, the science course must be taken in grades 9-12.
U.S. History (Beginning with the graduating class of 2027)	The equivalent of a one-year United States history course.	To satisfy this course requirement, the U.S. History course must be taken in grades 9-12.

Aligned Courses:

CCRSB offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements. Note, that two semester courses must be taken for a full-year equivalent.

English Language Arts

Course #	Description	FY or Sem
111	English 9th	FY
112	English 9th (H)	FY
131	English 10th	FY
132	English 10th (H)	FY
151	English 11th	Sem
152	English 11th (H)	Sem
153	Writing Workshop	Sem
154	Rhetoric & Adv Language (H)	Sem
160	Twice Told Tales-English	Sem
161	Twice Told Tales-English (H)	Sem
171	English 12th	Sem
172	English 12th (H)	Sem
173	World Literature	Sem
174	Creative Writing	Sem
176	Visions of the Future	Sem

Mathematics

Course #	Description	FY or Sem
413	Blended Alg 1 and Geometry	FY
415	Geometry (E)	FY
417	Geometry (H)	FY
423	Algebra 2	FY
425	Algebra 2 (E)	FY
427	Algebra 2 (H)	FY

Science

Course #	Description	FY or Sem
521	Biology - Intro	FY
523	Biology - Intro (H)	FY
525	AP Biology (H)	FY
531	Chemistry - Intro	FY
532	Chemistry - Intro (E)	FY
533	Chemistry - Intro (H)	FY
535	AP Chemistry (H)	FY
537	Chemistry in the Community	FY
541A	Physics Intro Mechanics - Sem1	Sem
541B	Physics Intro Electricity/Magnetism - Sem2	Sem
542	Physics - Intro (E)	FY
544	AP Physics C (H)	FY
547	AP Physics I (H)	FY

US History

Course #	Description	FY or Sem
209	US History	FY
210	US History (H)	FY

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities

The Concord Carlisle Regional Public School District must both provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education to students with disabilities and must also determine that the student has met the competency determination and local graduation requirements prior to graduating that student. Students with disabilities who have been placed in out-of-district placements must meet the requirements of the competency determination policy of the placing school district. Discussion of the competency determination must be a part of the IEP Team's transition planning.

English Language Learners

The Concord Carlisle Regional Public School District shall, on a case-by-case basis, determine the appropriate courses necessary for English Language Learners to both achieve language proficiency and meet the competency determination requirements.

Late-Enrolling Students

Students who enroll in a Massachusetts public high school after their ninth-grade year may be granted a determination of competency by the Concord Carlisle Regional Public School District in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript review by (Building Administrator(s)).
- Additional course requirements as determined by (Building Administrator(s)).
- A qualifying MCAS score of at least meeting or exceeding expectations achievement levels on the relevant high school MCAS assessment; or by meeting the standard for a substituted equivalent that the district certifies satisfies the same academic standards.

Appeals Process

Current students and/or parents/guardians may appeal the determination of competency in accordance with the following district procedure:

- An appeal in writing will be addressed and sent to the High School Principal;
- Within 10 school days, and after a transcript review and/or other components and consultation with Central Office Administration, the Principal will respond in writing, and in a language the student can understand, the rationale for the decision;
- The Principal may also request a meeting with the student and parents/guardians;
- The Principal shall be the arbiter for all final decisions.

Process for a current or former student to request a transcript review

Eligible students in the classes of 2003 through 2024 who did not earn a diploma as a result of failing to meet the state's CD requirement have an opportunity to request a transcript review in order to determine their current eligibility for a diploma pursuant to the district's CD requirements.

An eligible student is one who:

1. Was previously enrolled in the district; and
2. Previously met the criteria for a Certificate of Attainment (i.e., student met local graduation requirements but did not receive a high school diploma because they did not earn a CD); and
3. Was not previously reported as a graduate in any district's Student Information Management System (SIMS) submission.

Any eligible student requesting a transcript review should, in writing, contact the High School Principal. High School Department Leaders, along with the Principal shall determine if the transcript review meets the new CD requirements. Decisions will be communicated to the eligible student within 8 weeks of initial contact. The Principal shall be the arbiter for all final decisions.

Any student who has not previously met the criteria for a Certificate of Attainment (indicating that they did not meet all local graduation requirements when they exited high school) *must meet the district's current CD requirements and local graduation requirements in order to earn a diploma.*

LEGAL REFS: [DESE Graduation Requirements and Related Guidance](#)
 [DESE Graduation and Transition Planning for Students with IEPs](#)
 [DESE Competency Determination Guidance and Policy Submission Process](#)
 [603 CMR 30.00](#)
 [M.G.L. c. 69, § 1D](#)

CROSS REFS: Student Handbook
 IKF Graduation Requirements

SOURCE: MASC - 2025