

Holbrook Public Schools

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:

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 Holbrook Public Schools will be determined to have satisfactorily completed coursework 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 one year of both Algebra I and Geometry courses, or the equivalent of one year of both Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II. Whether to follow an Algebra/Geometry or Integrated Math I/II course sequence is determined by the district, but the equivalent	Middle school math courses may be certified by the district as meeting the coursework requirement for the mathematics component of the CD. Districts must confirm that the course aligns to the high school Algebra I/Geometry/Integrated Math

	length of the courses must still be met.	I/Integrated Math II standards as listed in the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework.
Science	The equivalent of one year of any one of the following disciplines: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Technology/Engineering.	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:

Holbrook Public Schools offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements.

(District to list courses identified by DESE as aligned with the Competency Determination coursework requirement in each content area, review the skills, competencies, and knowledge that a student must demonstrate mastery of as identified in the relevant Massachusetts curriculum frameworks, and, describes, how a student will show mastery in each content area. A link to the aligned courses may be found in DESE's Competency Determination Guidance and Policy Submission Process Document linked below.)

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities

The Holbrook Public Schools 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 Holbrook Public Schools 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 Holbrook Public Schools in one or more of the following ways:

(Suggested language only, district to determine which will apply.)

- Transcript review by (District Administrator(s).
- Additional course requirements as determined by (District 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 procedures:

(District to specify the appeals process. Language may already exist in handbooks.)

Those enrolled in the Holbrook Public Schools in the classes of 2003 through 2024 that did not earn a diploma may also appeal the decision through the following process:

(District to specify the appeals process. Language may already exist in handbooks.)

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

Adopted: December 11, 2025