File: IKFE

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION POLICY

Bourne Public Schools

Purpose

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, competencies, and knowledge in said areas and must have satisfactorily completed coursework that has been certified by the district as demonstrating 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 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.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, an additional requirement in U.S. History will apply.

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

- The final assessment or final exam for a course; or
- A capstone or portfolio project
- An equivalent measure identified in the district's CD policy

A student enrolled in Bourne 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.

Aligned Courses
The following chart codifies required content, required coursework aligned with the Bourne High School Program of Studies, full credit competency determination requirements, and mastery requirements to be completed by each candidate for diploma in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines.

Content Area	**Required Coursework**	**Full Credit Competency Determination**
English Language Arts **To satisfy this course requirement, the ELA courses must be taken in grades 9-12.*	The equivalent of **two** years of English	• Receive a passing grade in the equivalent of English 9 and English 10 (Class of 2026 and beyond). • Successfully complete the final exam/capstone project for each course
Mathematics **Middle school math courses may be certified as meeting the coursework requirement for the mathematics component of the CD*	The equivalent of one year of both Algebra 1 **and** Geometry courses	• Receive a passing grade in the equivalent of Algebra I and Geometry (Class of 2026 and beyond) • Successfully complete the final exam/capstone project for each course
Science **To satisfy this course requirement, the science course must be taken in grades 9-12*	The equivalent of **one** year of any of the following disciplines: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Technology/Engineering	• Receive a passing grade in the equivalent of either Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Engineering (Class or 2026 and beyond) • Successfully complete the final exam/capstone project for each course
US History **Beginning with the graduating class of 2027*	The equivalent of a United States History course	• Receive a passing grade in US History • Successfully complete the final exam/capstone project for each course

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities
Bourne Public Schools must provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities and must also determine that each student has met the Competency Determination and local graduation requirements prior to awarding a diploma. Students attending out-of-district placements must meet the competency determination requirements of Bourne Public Schools, the placing district. Competency Determination must be discussed as part of the student's IEP transition planning process.

English Learners
The district shall determine, on a case-by-case basis, the appropriate course placement and supports necessary for English Learners to achieve both English language proficiency and the Competency Determination requirements.

Late-Enrolling Students
Students who enroll in a Massachusetts public high school after ninth grade may be granted a determination of competency by Bourne Public Schools through one or more of the following:

- Transcript review by designated district administrator(s);
- Additional coursework as determined by district administrator(s);
- A qualifying MCAS score of Meeting or Exceeding Expectations, or meeting the standard for a district-approved substituted equivalent that satisfies the same academic standards.

Appeals Process
Current students or their parents/guardians may appeal a Competency Determination decision through the following process:

1. Written appeal submitted to the high school principal or designee.
2. Transcript review by district administrator(s) to verify coursework aligned to state academic standards.
3. Review of final exams, capstone projects, or portfolios in aligned courses to determine whether mastery has been demonstrated.
4. Consultation with teachers or staff if additional evidence of student mastery is available. Issuance of a written decision to the student and family within a reasonable timeframe.

The district may consider additional academic artifacts that demonstrate mastery of state standards.

Appeals for Former Students (Classes of 2003–2024)

Students enrolled in Bourne Public Schools during the classes of 2003 through 2024 who did not earn a diploma may appeal the original Competency Determination decision through the following process:

1. Submission of a formal appeal request to the district office.
2. Official transcript review to confirm completion of aligned coursework and final assessments.
3. Review of any available MCAS results or approved equivalent measures.
4. Issuance of a Competency Determination decision, and if all requirements are met, authorization for the awarding of 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