

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Code</i>
	COMPETENCY DETERMINATION	IKFE

HOLLISTON

In addition to meeting the Course Requirements described in IKF - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (credits and subject specific criteria), in adherence with The Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993, G.L. c. 69, § 1D, all students must meet the Competency Determination (CD) standard in Math, ELA, Science and beginning with the class of 2027, History to earn a diploma in MA. The new statute states:

“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, and 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.”

For students in the Class of 2026, a student who has earned their competency determination prior to January 3, 2025 in the areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science through a passing score on the MCAS subject tests or retests will be considered to have met the competency determination requirement in the relevant subject(s).

Beginning with the class of 2026, a determination of competency shall include:

- Satisfactory completion and full credit earned of relevant coursework aligned to the standards measured by the high school English language arts, mathematics, and science MCAS assessments administered in 2023. This includes the following:
 - English 9 and English 10
 - Algebra I and Geometry
 - One of the following: Physics, Biology, or Chemistry
 - One Year of United States (US) History (Beginning with the class of 2027)

- Demonstrating a mastery of skills in English Language arts, mathematics, and science; in accordance with the district’s grading policy on the final assessment, capstone/portfolio or equivalent measure.
 - *Seniors in these courses are not exempt from the final assessment, capstone/portfolio or equivalent measure, regardless of their overall course grade*

All courses listed above are taught using standards from the current high school MA Curriculum Frameworks and are equivalent to the content and skills previously measured by the 2023 MCAS exam.

Competency Determination:

	Satisfactory Completion of Coursework Requirements	Mastery of Skills through Assessment or Capstone/Portfolio
ELA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may have earned their CD in ELA by passing the ELA MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. ● If the student did not pass the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025, they are required to take the equivalent of two years of high school English language arts courses in grades 9 and 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may have earned their CD in ELA by passing the ELA MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. ● If the student did not pass the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025 they are also required to pass their final assessment, capstone/portfolio or equivalent measure. ● If a student fails their final assessment in English 9 and/or English 10, students will participate in a portfolio review of prior assessment data to determine if they have met 60% of the frameworks included in the summative assessment/portfolio or equivalent measure.
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may have earned their CD by passing the Math MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. ● If the student did not take the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025, they are required to take the equivalent of two years of high school math courses (Algebra and Geometry) in grades 9 and 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may have earned their CD in Math by passing the Math MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. ● If the student did not pass the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025 they are also required to pass their final assessment, capstone/portfolio or equivalent measure. ● If a student fails their final assessment in Algebra I and/or Geometry, students will participate in a portfolio review of prior assessment data to determine if they have met 60% of the frameworks included in

		the summative assessment/portfolio or equivalent measure.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may have earned their CD in Biology, Chemistry or Physics by passing the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. • If the student did not take the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025, they are required to take and pass the equivalent of one year of any one of the following disciplines: Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Technology/Engineering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may have earned their CD in Biology or Chemistry or Physics by passing the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025. • If the student did not take the MCAS prior to January 3, 2025, students must take and pass their final assessment or a capstone/portfolio or equivalent measure. • If a student fails their final assessment in Biology or Chemistry or Physics, students may participate in a portfolio review of prior assessment data to determine if they have met 60% of the frameworks included in the summative assessment/portfolio, or they may attempt to earn their CD in Science in their next sequential class.
History (Beginning with the class of 2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The equivalent of one year of United States History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, students must take and pass their final assessment or a capstone/portfolio. • If a student fails their assessment in United States History students may participate in a portfolio review of prior assessment data to determine if they have met 60% of the frameworks included in the summative assessment/portfolio or they may attempt to earn the CD in US History by taking the next sequential class.

Students with Disabilities

The Holliston 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 part of the IEP Team’s transition planning.

English Language Learners

The Holliston School District shall, on a case-by-case basis, determine 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 Holliston School District in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript Review by School Counselor and Building Administrator
- Additional course requirements as determined by the School Counselor and the Building Administrator
- Meeting the standard for a substituted equivalent that the district certifies satisfies the same academic standards

Current or Former Students not earning their competency determination may participate in the following Appeals Process:

- Students enrolled in the Holliston School District in the classes of 2003 through 2024 who did not earn a diploma due to not passing the MCAS may appeal the decision and request a transcript review to determine if they have met the competency determination requirement.
- Students enrolled in the Holliston School District in the class of 2025 and beyond may appeal the competency determination by participating in a transcript and portfolio review to determine if they have met the competency determination requirement.

Exceptions to these graduation requirements, providing for individual student programs, may be secured by submitting a written request to the principal for disposition.

First Reading:	October 23, 2025
Second Reading:	November 13, 2025
Third Reading:	waived
Policy Adopted:	November 13, 2025
Policy Amended	
Policy Reviewed:	
Legal References:	DESE Graduation Requirements and Related Guidance DESE Graduation and Transition Planning for Students with IEPs

	<u>DESE Competency Determination Guidance and Policy Submission Process</u> <u>603 CMR 30.00</u> <u>M.G.L. c. 69, § 1D</u>
Policy Cross Reference:	Student Handbook IKF Graduation Requirements
Procedure Reference	

11/14/25 ld