

Policy IKFA: Graduation Requirements

Competency Determination and Q2

- Under Massachusetts state law, MGL c.69 §1D (i), students must satisfy the requirements of the “competency determination” (CD) in order to graduate from high school
 - This is in addition to local graduation requirements
- With the passage of Question 2, future MCAS testing will no longer satisfy the requirements of the CD and individual school districts must identify a process to determine that students have met the competency determination requirements by successfully completing local coursework

Competency Determination and Q2

- DESE provided an updated FAQ document about the competency determination requirement on December 11
 - The FAQ document confirmed that districts must develop a local process, but did not provide guidance on how to develop that process
- The FAQ document is clear that students in the Class of 2025 (and beyond) can no longer earn a CD by attaining a qualifying score on MCAS
- MCAS will continue to be administered to students in Grades 3-10, as required by federal and state law

Westwood Graduation Policy

- The current Westwood School Committee Policy IKFA: Graduation Requirements specifies that in addition to local coursework requirement, students must also “pass the MCAS examination in Math, English Language Arts, and Science Technology”.
- With MCAS no longer satisfying the CD requirement, the state will no longer issue a “passing” score on MCAS
- Although MCAS retests are being offered this spring, there is uncertainty as to whether these retests will continue to be offered in future years

Westwood Graduation Policy

- As such, it is recommended that the Committee amend Policy IKFA by striking the reference to passing MCAS tests as a local graduation requirement
- It is also recommended that the Committee consider waiving the third reading of the policy and vote to adopt at the January 16 meeting
 - This will provide certainty to students and families prior to MCAS retests being administered this spring

File: IKFA - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

"The College Preparatory Program of Studies is a pattern of courses designed to prepare students for admission to a four-year college or university. Almost all students spend four years completing this program. A student following this program may opt for more difficult classes in his or her areas of strength. Please see the Program of Studies Booklet for specific course suggestions.

To receive a Westwood High School diploma, a student must earn a minimum of 115 credits (meeting minimum credit requirements in subject areas listed below) ~~and pass the MCAS examination in Math, English Language Arts, and Science and Technology.~~

Of these credits, the following subject area requirements must be met:

20.00 Credits of English

15.00 Credits of Mathematics

17.00 Credits of Science

10.00 Credits of Social Studies (including United States History)

7.00 Credits of Wellness

5.00 Credits of Fine Art (Art, Music, or Performing Arts courses)

10.0 Credits of World Language (must complete a 2 year sequence in one language)

1.25 Civics

1.25 Public Speaking (for students in the Class of 2025 and earlier)

1.25 Financial Literacy (for students in the Class of 2026 and beyond)

Credits necessary to advance to the next grade level:

To advance to the 11th grade: 52.5 credits

To advance to the 12th grade: 85 credits

Graduation Requirement: 115

Approved by School Committee on 5/9/2024

Discussion