

TO: School Committee

FROM: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

DATE: April 16, 2024

RE: Proposed Revision to Policy IKFA: Graduation Requirements

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At the School Committee meeting on April 23, the Committee will be asked to engage in a first reading of a proposed revision to Policy IKFA: Graduation Requirements. This revision would phase out the current requirement that all students pass a term (quarter) class in public speaking, and replace it with a requirement that all students pass a term (quarter) class in financial literacy. This change would take effect for the Class of 2026, as this requirement is generally met by students in their junior year.

The rationale for this change, as well as the logistical reasons why it is possible at this time without an impact on staffing, can be found in [this memo from WHS Principal Davenport](#). It is important to note that the skills that students learn in public speaking will be embedded within other classes, particularly in ELA, as they are part of the Massachusetts Speaking and Listening frameworks.

As a policy change, this requires three readings from the School Committee and would allow for a final vote on adoption at our June meeting. [The redlined version of the policy](#) acknowledges that the current requirements would be in place for the Classes of 2024 and 2025, and that the new requirements would take effect for the current sophomore class who will be scheduled to take financial literacy next school year.

I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee at our meeting on April 23.