

MASHPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Updated November 2025

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

To graduate from a Massachusetts public high school, a student must meet local graduation requirements AND fulfill the Competency Determination requirement. For students with disabilities, students must have received a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Mashpee Middle/High School is guided by The Massachusetts High School Program of Studies (MassCore). MassCore is intended to help our state's high school graduates arrive at college or the workplace well prepared and reduce the number of students taking remedial courses in college. MassCore recommends a comprehensive set of subject area courses and units as well as other learning opportunities to complete before graduating from high school.

The chart below lists the Mashpee Middle/High School graduation requirements. Students earn one (1) credit for each full year course successfully completed and (.5) credit for each half-year course. Also listed are the entrance requirements or guidelines of four-year private and state (Massachusetts) universities.

	<u>Mashpee M/High School</u> <u>(Required)</u>	<u>4 Yr. Colleges</u> <u>(Recommended)</u>	<u>4 Yr. Mass. Colleges</u> <u>(Required)</u>
English	4	4	4
Math	4*	4	4 (Alg I & II Geo)
Science	3 (lab based)	3	3 (3 labs)
History/Soc. Studies	3 (U.S. History I & II)	2 (1 U.S. History)	2 (1 U.S. History)
World Language	2 (single language)	2-4 (<i>3 recommended</i>)	2 (single language)
Senior Seminar/S.T.C.	1		
Unified (Fine/Applied) Arts	2		1 (Unified Arts)
Electives	3.5	3-6	2
Phys. Ed.	1	2 (P.E./Health)	
Health	.5		
Total	24	19-25	16 (<i>CP Level higher</i>)**

*Math four year requirement must be completed in grades 9-12.

Credit for Foreign Study: Students who are away for a term or year to participate in a student exchange program or otherwise student abroad may receive credits towards high school graduation when (1) study plans are approved by the school administration in advance; and (2) the institution where the study occurred submits a record of the student's work. In these instances, the Principal and student's guidance counselor will evaluate the work and assign credit for it according to standards prevailing in the Mashpee Middle-High School.

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION: CLASS of 2026 ONLY

The awarding of a fully certified diploma from the Mashpee Public schools requires, in addition to the above-stated criteria, a demonstration of mastery of the common core of skills, competency, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

For the Class of 2026, a successful Competency Determination (CD) requires a qualifying score of at least “Meeting Expectations” or “Exceeding Expectations” achievement levels on the relevant high school MCAS assessment prior to December 1, 2024 **or** passing the following coursework with at least a 65%:

- English 9 and 10
- Algebra 1 and Geometry or Integrated Geometry Honors*
- Biology or Physics or Chemistry

*or its equivalent

(The Mashpee Public School District reserves the right to substitute any courses for the above-stated courses provided they align with the appropriate MA Curriculum Framework Standards and the State Law regarding Competency Determination M.G.L. Title XII Ch. 69 S. 1D.) See list of aligned courses below.

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION: Beginning with the CLASS of 2027

A determination of competency shall include:

Demonstrating a mastery of skills in English language arts, mathematics, science and US History; 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.

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 Mashpee 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	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

	sequence is determined by the district, but the equivalent 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	Completion of both US History I and US History II, or AP US History	To satisfy this course requirement, the U.S. History course must be taken in grades 9-12.

Aligned Courses:

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

ENGLISH:

- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- English as a Second Language: ESL courses may count toward the ELA coursework requirement, if they explicitly integrate grade-appropriate ELA standards with English Language Development (ELD) standards, using instructional scaffolds that are appropriate to students' English proficiency levels

MATH:

- Algebra I
- Geometry

SCIENCE:

- Biology
- AP Biology
- Chemistry
- AP Chemistry
- Physics
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics 2

US HISTORY:

- US History I and US History II
- AP US History

Additional Considerations:

Credit Recovery Options

Students who do not meet the required passing grades in the above prescribed courses may enroll in summer school, credit recovery courses, or be scheduled to take additional coursework by their guidance counselor that

meets the same MA Curriculum Framework Standards. These opportunities will provide a student who has yet to meet the CD requirements additional opportunities to meet this standard for graduation.

Students with Disabilities

The Mashpee Public Schools must both provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) 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 Mashpee 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 Mashpee Public Schools in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript review by District Administrator(s). In the event that a student transfers into the Mashpee Public schools at any point during their high school career, a transcript review will be conducted to ensure that the coursework from the previous school is aligned with MMHS coursework for the CD and graduation requirement.
- Additional course requirements as determined by District Administrator(s).
- A qualifying MCAS score of at least "Meeting Expectations" 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:

The Principal shall be the arbiter for all disagreements in transcript review. An appeal of the principal's decision may be made to the superintendent. The superintendent's decision on transcript reviews as related to CD is final.

Those enrolled in the Mashpee Public Schools in the classes of 2003 through 2024 that did not earn a diploma may also appeal the decision by requesting a formal transcript review process to determine if they meet the competency determination criteria outlined in this policy.

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

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE - 11/5/25