

Plymouth Public Schools

Competency Determination Update

Presentation to School Committee

January 6, 2025



Work Ahead



Timing of ballot question and student enrollment requires DESE to approach CD work in three parts

1. Class of 2025
2. Current high school students
3. Students not yet in grade 9



Each part has differing responsibilities for Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)



BESE can adopt regulations on current language as it has done in the past



In the longer term, there may be further legislation

New Language in Statute

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, as measured by the assessment instruments described in section one ~~†~~ 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.

Districts Must Set CD for Class of 2025

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, as measured by the assessment instruments described in section one ~~†~~ 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 administered in 2023, and in any additional areas determined by the board.



For the Class of 2025, competency must be certified by district in the areas of ELA, Mathematics and Science. This CD can be achieved by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of ... the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one administered in 2023



How Plymouth Currently Meets Competency:

- * **Successful completion of grade 10 English**
- * **Successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry**
- * **Successful completion of Biology**



Plymouth's Current Academic Requirements

Credit and Course Requirements

Promotion Requirements

Grade	Cumulative Credits for Promotion
Grade 10	32.5
Grade 11	65
Grade 12	100
Graduation	135

**In addition, grade 12 students must earn 32.5 credits of course work during their senior year and appropriately meet attendance requirements as outlined in our school attendance policy to graduate and participate in the graduation ceremony.*

Course Requirements for Graduation

Academic Students	Technical Studies Students
English 20 credits	English 20 credits
Social Studies..... 15 credits <i>(including US History 1 & 2)</i>	Social Studies..... 15 credits <i>(including US History 1 & 2)</i>
Mathematics.....20 credits <i>(including Algebra 2)</i>	Mathematics.....20 credits <i>(including Algebra 2)</i>
Science15 credits	Science10-15 credits <i>(depending upon program)</i>
Physical Education10 credits	Physical Education10 credits

****Students are required to take Physical Education each year. Students are required to take Health Education in Freshman and/or Sophomore year. Students are required to take English and Mathematics each year.***

Final Examinations



**Administered to all students
(grades 9-11) in all subjects**

There are no final exams for seniors



**Final exams are worth 10% of the
overall grade**



**Students in AP courses are exempt
from the final exams in that course
upon completion of the AP exam**

MassCore Framework



What is MassCore?

Adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2007 and amended in 2018, MassCore is a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations.

The program of studies includes successful completion of four units of English, four units of mathematics, three units of a lab-based science, three units of history, two units of the same world language, one unit of the arts, and five additional "core" courses.

- Certain computer science courses can substitute for either a laboratory science course or a mathematics course.
- **82.1% of all students in Plymouth complete MassCore program of studies.**

MassCore Framework

Massachusetts High School Program of Studies

SUBJECT	UNITS	NOTES
English Language Arts	4 Units	
Mathematics	4 Units	Including completion of Algebra II or the Integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute one unit of Computer Science that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.
Science	3 Units of lab-based science	Coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute one unit of Computer Science that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course.
History and Social Science	3 Units	Including U.S. History and World History.
world Language	2 Units	Of the same language. Districts may designate students with demonstrated fluency and literacy in language(s) other than English as meeting the MassCore recommendations for world language
Physical Education	As required by law	“Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students” (M.G.L. c.71 §3).
Arts	1 Unit	
Additional Core Courses	5 Units	Other additional coursework (including Career and Technical Education) or any of the above.

*A unit represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject that covers all the standards contained in a specific Curriculum Framework.

** Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of world Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.

MassCore is a recommended program of study Massachusetts high school students need to excel in college, career, and civic life. Developed by an advisory group from elementary and secondary education, higher education, nonprofits, and the private sector, MassCore maintains flexibility for students while letting districts set additional graduation requirements. Courses included in MassCore should be rigorous, engaging, and based on appropriate learning standards for high school or beyond. Fulfilling MassCore is just a start. Students should also engage in a full range of additional learning opportunities, such as: accelerated/advanced coursework; capstones or senior projects; dual enrollment courses; online courses; service learning; work-based learning; clubs and student organizations; varsity and intramural athletics; and part-time employment.

Competency Determination Recommendation for the Class of 2025



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF
GRADE 10 ENGLISH



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF
ALGEBRA 1 AND GEOMETRY



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF
BIOLOGY

Await further guidance from DESE and BESE before adding any additional conditions



Questions
