

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONY

All students who have satisfied the necessarily required number of credits and met the attendance requirements as stated in the student handbook will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

In Accordance with CH 71B, Section 16, a school-age child with a disability, in this section called a student, who is completing the twelfth grade but who has not yet earned the competency determination as required under Section 1D of Chapter 69 for high school graduation, shall be allowed to participate fully in high school graduation ceremonies and activities conducted or sponsored by the school or school committee even though the student will not receive a diploma during the ceremony if:

- a) The student has maintained at least a 95% attendance level, meaning no more than 9 days of absence from school in a 180 day school year, during the school year before the twelfth grade, but, a student's absence from school due to disability, illness, religious observance or other reason that constitutes an excused absence **as described in the student handbook under the school's or school committee's rules shall not be counted for purposes of this section;**
- ~~b) The student has taken the grade 10 MCAS examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least 3 times, or has participated in the MCAS alternate assessment by submitting at least 2 portfolios; and~~

Nothing in this section shall compel a student to participate in the high school graduation ceremony and activities. The superintendent shall consider the recommendation, if any, of the student's individualized education program Team as well as the student's own expressed preference. A student's participation in the high school graduation ceremony and activities without award of the high school diploma shall not affect or limit the student's eligibility for Special Education Services.

Students shall only be allowed to participate in one high school graduation ceremony.