

Brookline HS COMPETENCY DETERMINATION DRAFT

One of the requirements for graduation in Massachusetts is a determination of competency in subjects previously covered by the MCAS. In addition to other requirements for graduation, students must have been determined by the district to have achieved mastery of the common core of skills, competency, and knowledge in said areas, and satisfactorily have completed 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.

Competency Determination Requirements

A determination of competency shall include:

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

An additional requirement for mastery in US History will apply to the graduating class of 2027, and beyond.

To show mastery, a student must successfully complete, in accordance with the district's grading policy or by any other appropriate methodology as may be determined by the School Committee:

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 Public Schools of Brookline 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 sequence is determined by the district, but the equivalent length of the courses must still be met.	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 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 (Beginning with the graduating class of 2027)	The equivalent of a one-year United States history course.	To satisfy this course requirement, the U.S. History course must be taken in grades 9-12.

Aligned Courses:

The Public Schools of Brookline offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements:

English Language Arts

One of the following:

- English 1 (EN1050, EN1051, EN1060)
- Responding to Literature (EN1020, EN1022, EN1030)
- Humanities (EN1100, EN1122, EN1162)

AND

One of the following:

- English 2 (EN2050, EN1052, EN2060)
- World Literature (EN2020, EN2022, EN2030, EN2062)
- Future World Literature (EN2100, EN2122, EN2130, EN2162)
- Real World Literature (EN2200, EN2230)

A student will show mastery in English Language Arts by successfully completing coursework certified by the District as reflecting the skills, competencies, and knowledge outlined in the Massachusetts academic standards and curriculum frameworks. In doing so, the student must earn full credit for the English Language Arts courses listed above, or by completing a subject matter portfolio aligned with the state frameworks and approved by the English Department Curriculum Coordinator.

Mathematics

One year of Algebra I

- Algebra I (MA1000, MA 1002, Algebra I (Grade 8 Equivalent))

AND

One year of Geometry

- Geometry (MA1020, MA1022, MA1030, MA1040, MA1062)

A student will show mastery in Mathematics by successfully completing coursework certified by the District as reflecting the skills, competencies, and knowledge outlined in the Massachusetts academic standards and curriculum frameworks. In doing so, the student must earn full credit for the Mathematics courses, as listed above, or by completing a subject matter portfolio aligned with the state frameworks and approved by the Mathematics Department Curriculum Coordinator.

Science

One of the following:

- Physics I (SC1020, SC1022, SC1030, SC1062)
- Chemistry I (SC2020, SC2022, SC2030, SC2062)
- Biology I (SC3020, SC3022, SC3030)
- iBio I (SC3025, SC3035)
- Applied Science (SC1050, SC2050, SC3050)

A student will show mastery in Science by successfully completing coursework certified by the District as reflecting the skills, competencies, and knowledge outlined in the Massachusetts academic standards and curriculum frameworks. In doing so, the student must earn full credit for the Science courses, as listed above, or by completing a subject matter portfolio aligned with the state frameworks and approved by the Science Department Curriculum Coordinator.

United States History

One of the following:

- U.S. History (SO3020, SO3022, SO3030, SO3040, SO3050, SO3120, SO3130)

A student will show mastery in United States History by successfully completing coursework certified by the District as reflecting the skills, competencies, and knowledge outlined in the Massachusetts academic standards and curriculum frameworks. In doing so, the student must earn full credit for the Mathematics courses, as listed above, or by completing a subject matter portfolio aligned with the state frameworks and approved by the Social Studies Department Curriculum Coordinator.

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities

The Public Schools of Brookline must both provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education 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 Public Schools of Brookline 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. In general, EL students would need two years of English culminating in an EL3 level course.

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 Public Schools of Brookline in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript review by BHS Guidance Counselor and Registrar with approval by BHS Guidance Coordinator.

- Additional course requirements as determined by BHS Guidance Counselor and Registrar with final approval of program of study required by BHS Assistant Head of School.

Appeals Process

Current students and/or parents/guardians may appeal the determination of competency in accordance with the following district procedures:

1. Contact the student's Dean or Counselor
2. The Dean will coordinate a review meeting with the Assistant Head of School and relevant department coordinators to evaluate available evidence of mastery.
3. The Assistant Head of School will issue a decision regarding whether the PSB competency Determination Requirements have been met. The decision will provide a full report of which credits satisfied the requirements and, if short, where credits are needed. In such instances, the report will also include a suggested route to attaining the necessary credits.

Those enrolled in the Public Schools of Brookline in the classes of 2003 through 2024 that did not earn a diploma may also appeal for a review of their standing toward CD. The district will continue outreach where possible to such students. Transcript review by Registrar and BHS Assistant Head of School to determine if credits earned match with CD guidelines in this policy.

1. Such appeals can be initiated by a written request to the Assistant Head of School
2. A panel comprised of the Assistant Head of School, appropriate Department Curriculum Coordinator and any additional relevant curriculum experts employed by the Public Schools of Brookline will review coursework, transcripts, or equivalent demonstrations of competency and their alignment to the DESE MA Curriculum Frameworks in ELA, Mathematics, Science and or United States History.
3. The Assistant Head of School will issue a decision regarding whether the PSB competency Determination Requirements have been met. The decision will provide a full report of which credits satisfied the requirements and, if short, where credits are needed. In such instances, the report will also include a suggested route to attaining the necessary credits.

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](#)