



School Committee Policy of the Competency Determination
Approved: March 27, 2025

Purpose:

In response to the ballot question #2 on November 5, 2024, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) can no longer be used to meet the Competency Determination (CD) as a requirement for high school graduation. This policy recommendation was made by a multidisciplinary team including school leaders, school counselors, Curriculum & Instruction, Data & Assessment, Exceptional Learners, and Multilingual Learners in response to this change in the statute.

Competency Determination:

To earn a high school diploma from Springfield Public Schools (SPS), students must earn the required credits and meet the established district CD requirements. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education defines that the CD shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders. The CD is met when a student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the school district.

Students who have already achieved the qualifying* MCAS scores in math, ELA, and science by the effective date (December 5, 2024) have earned their CD and are eligible to earn a high school diploma provided they meet the graduation requirements.

*Includes the November 2024 retest or through a DESE appeal process, have earned their competency determination.

The class of 2025 and earlier, students who have not earned the CD through previous MCAS administrations can meet the requirements for a CD as established by SPS through identified eligible English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science courses. To receive a high school diploma from SPS, students must meet (1) the SPS graduation requirements and (2) the state requirement to meet the CD.

Class of 2025:

- Receive a passing grade in English 9** and English 10**; **and**
- Receive a passing grade in Algebra 1** or Algebra 2**, **and** Geometry**;
and
- Receive a passing grade in **one** (1) of the three laboratory core science classes such as Biology**, Chemistry**, or Introductory Physics**.
**Or equivalency