

### COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

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 Attleboro Public Schools to have achieved mastery of the common core of skills, competency, and knowledge in said areas, and satisfactorily 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 the requisite coursework, in accordance with the District's grading guidelines in the student handbook or by any other appropriate methodology as may be determined by the School Committee.

1. A passing grade in an end of course assessment; or
2. A capstone or portfolio project; or
3. An equivalent measure identified in the district's CD policy.

A student enrolled in the Attleboro Public Schools will be determined to have satisfactorily completed coursework or their equivalent, in accordance with the grading guidelines and the requirements outlined below:

<b>Content Area</b>	<b>Coursework Requirements</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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:**

APS offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements.

- For English Language Arts:
  - English I
  - English II
- For Mathematics:
  - Algebra I
  - Geometry
- For Science:
  - Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering
- For U.S. History Beginning with the Class of 2027:
  - U.S. History I
  - U.S. History II

Additional aligned courses are designated in the Program of Studies.

### **Additional Considerations**

#### Credit Recovery Options

Students who do not meet the 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 Attleboro Public Schools 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, including those who have been placed in out-of-district day or residential placements, must meet the requirements of the competency determination policy of the placing school district. To ensure equal opportunity to meet these requirements, students with disabilities are provided access to aligned coursework, specialized instruction, accommodations, assistive technology, and other modifications consistent with their IEPs. Discussion of the competency determination must be a part of the IEP Team's transition planning.

## English Language Learners

The Attleboro 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 Attleboro Public Schools in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript review by District Administrators.
- Additional course requirements as determined by District Administrators.
- A qualifying MCAS score of at least meeting or exceeding expectations achievement levels on the relevant high school MCAS assessment.
- 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:

- A student (18 or older) or parent/guardian submits request in writing to the Principal.
- The Guidance Counselor will audit the information presented.
- Findings are presented to the Director of School Counseling in conjunction with relevant personnel for final approval.
  - A passing score of meeting or exceeding expectations on the MCAS assessment may be considered as part of the review.
- If the student should receive Competency Determination, a notation is made in Aspen and in the student's record.
- The decision will be provided within thirty (30) days of receiving all supporting documents. Written notification will be sent to the email address provided by the requestor.
- The decision may be appealed in writing to the Superintendent or designee within five (5) days. The Superintendent or designee will have final approval.

## **Diploma Request**

Students who were enrolled in the Attleboro Public Schools in the classes of 2003 through 2024 that did not earn a diploma may also appeal the decision through the following diploma request process:

- Former student (18 or older) or Parent/Guardian submit request in writing to the Principal.
- The Guidance Counselor will audit the information presented.
- Findings are presented to the Director of School Counseling in conjunction with relevant district personnel for final approval.
- Decision provided within thirty (30) days of receiving all supporting documents. Notification will be in writing sent to the email address provided by the requestor.
- Student status will be changed to graduate effective on the day decision is made.
- In the event a diploma request is denied, an appeal may be presented to the Superintendent or designee in writing within five (5) days of the decision. The Superintendent or designee will have final approval.

Source: MASC - 2025

Legal References:

- [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 References:

- [IKE](#), Graduation Requirements
- SOURCE: MASC – 2025

Reference:

- Student Handbooks