



September 2024

Dear Members of the Class of 2026 (entering Eleventh Graders) and Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2026:

This year's eleventh graders are the first graduating class that is required to meet the updated passing standards for the MCAS Competency Determination (CD) requirement in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and high school science. I hope this letter will help clarify the graduation requirement for your child's class.

At the August 15, 2022, special meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board voted to update the CD requirement beginning with the class of 2026. The new standard establishes minimum passing scores in ELA, mathematics, and high school science to graduate from high school. Students in the classes of 2026 through 2030 must meet the following requirements to be eligible for a high school diploma (in addition to meeting all local graduation requirements):

- earn a scaled score of 486 or higher on the ELA and mathematics tests or retests; **or**
- earn a scaled score of 470–485 on the ELA and mathematics tests or retests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) in that subject (www.doe.mass.edu/assessment/epp). Each EPP will include a review of your child's strengths and weaknesses, the courses they must take and complete in grades 11 and 12, and a description of the assessments the school will administer to determine whether your child is moving toward proficiency; **and**
- earn a scaled score of 470 or higher on the high school science test in biology or introductory physics.

If your child has not met the MCAS graduation requirement in one or more subjects, they can retake the test (several times, if necessary) to meet the requirement. The first retesting opportunity in each subject is scheduled as follows:

- ELA: November 6–7, 2024
- Mathematics: November 12–13, 2024
- Science: February 4–5, 2025

For students who have not met the requirement in ELA, mathematics, or science, the MCAS Performance Appeals Process provides another way for students to demonstrate that they possess the knowledge and skills required to meet or exceed the state's CD standard. Additional information, including eligibility requirements, is available at

www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals, or you can contact the high school principal or guidance office.

Your child's MCAS scores may also earn them a tuition credit to a Massachusetts public college or university. Students who qualify for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams) will be notified automatically during their senior year. Students who are eligible for the Stanley C. Koplik Certificate of Mastery (www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery) must apply during their senior year.

For students who have not met the MCAS requirements for graduation, there are additional opportunities available at no cost to help them prepare for the future, including high school programs, community college programs, and work and learning programs. More information about these pathways and other options can be found at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/pathways/hqccp/default.html>.

If you have questions about your child's MCAS test results, please contact your child's guidance counselor. If they are not able to answer your question, please contact us at mcas@mass.gov or 781-338-3625.

Sincerely,

Russell D. Johnston
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education