**DESE logo
March 2025 ELA and Mathematics Retest Participation Guidelines**

The December 11, 2024 [FAQ document](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/spec-advisories/2024-1211student-cd-update.html) related to the Competency Determination (CD) states: “Students who have not yet earned the CD, including those on an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP), can no longer earn a CD through an MCAS test or retest process, and instead must earn a CD that follows a process as described in the new law.” **Accordingly, students may not earn a CD through participation in the March 2025 retests.**

However, students can participate in the March retests to attempt to qualify for the [John and Abigail Adams Scholarship](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html), the [Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/), and/or the [Seal of Biliteracy](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/) as described below.

Schools should also note that the FAQ document linked above provides the following guidance in the answer to question 4. Based on this guidance, in addition to the eligibility below, students may also participate for local uses or requirements, if applicable:

Q4: Are school districts allowed to use a student’s scores on high school MCAS tests as part of their local graduation requirements apart from the Competency Determination?

A4: Yes. The establishment of local graduation requirements is at the sole discretion of school districts.

Schools administering tests to students in grades 11 and 12 may wish to administer the grade 10 tests to students instead of the March retests (refer to the [spring grade 10 participation guidelines](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/highschool.html)).

Questions about these participation guidelines should be directed to [mcas@mass.gov](mailto:mcas@mass.gov).

| **Eligibility** | **Participation Guidelines** |
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| **Eligible to participate** | * Students repeating grade 10 and students in grade 11 who have **not** **yet** **taken** the grade 10 ELA and/or Mathematics test(s) and are attempting to qualify for the [Adams Scholarship](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html) and/or the [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) * Students repeating grade 10 and students in grade 11 who **have previously taken** the grade 10 ELA and/or Mathematics test(s) and are attempting to raise their score(s) to qualify for the [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) * **ELA retest only:** Students who are repeating grade 10, and students in grade 11 or 12 who are attempting to qualify for the [**Seal of Biliteracy**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/) |
| **Not eligible to participate** | * Grade 9 students * First-time grade 10 students * Grade 12 students |