**FAQ for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery**

**Q. What is the Koplik Certificate of Mastery?**

A. The *Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery* is a non-need-based tuition credit for Massachusetts public colleges and universities.

**Q. Who is Eligible to receive the Koplik Certificate of Mastery?**

A. To be ELIGIBLE TO APPLY for a Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award, a student must:

* Must be currently enrolled in a Massachusetts public high school. **(Students who have already graduated high school are not eligible to apply)**
* Be a permanent Massachusetts resident.
* Be a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen.

**Q. What if my child is not a permanent resident, US Citizen, or eligible non-citizen but has met all other requirements?**

A. Your child may receive the certificate as recognition of his/her achievements however (s)he may not use the tuition credit portion of the award.

**Q. How will I know if my child qualifies for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery?**

A. Students who meet the initial qualifications are usually notified in their junior year within 3 months of MCAS score release by letter to the students' parents or guardians. This letter explains the remaining requirements should the student wish to pursue them.

**Q. When should we expect to receive the initial qualification letter?**

A. Coordinators\* at your child’s high school are asked to inform the families of initial qualification by mail as soon as possible after receiving the eligibility list from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Q. What exactly does initial qualification mean?**

A. Initial qualification is based on MCAS scores and means that your student is *eligible to apply* for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery. For **initial qualification guidelines**, please use the table below:

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| --- |
| **Koplik Certificate of Mastery Initial Eligibility Score Requirements** |
| Score at *Advanced* level (or equivalent) on one test:* **ELA:** Minimum of 501 (Next-Gen)
* **Math:** Minimum of 504 (Next-Gen)
* **STE:** Minimum of 260 (Legacy) or equivalent Next-Gen score if applicable
 |
| **AND** |
| Score at *Proficient* level (or equivalent) on the remaining tests:* **ELA:** Minimum of 472 (Next-Gen)
* **Math:** Minimum of 486 (Next-Gen)
* **STE:** Minimum of 240 (Legacy) or equivalent Next-Gen score if applicable
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**Q. So if my son/daughter does well enough on the grade 10 MCAS to get this letter then he/she will get free tuition?**

A. No. The initial qualification letter is **NOT** the actual award, your child **MUST** fulfill the additional requirements and **FILE** an electronic application. Once received, the Koplik Certificate may be used as a **CREDIT** *towards* tuition.

**Q. I believe my child has met these initial qualifications but junior year is almost over and we have not received a letter. What do we do?**

A. If you do not receive a letter by March of junior year and believe you should have, please contact your child’s high school guidance counselor or Koplik coordinator.

**Q. We’ve gotten the initial qualification letter, what’s next?**

A. To **APPLY** for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery, students must first declare interest by completing and submitting an [interest form](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fscholarships%2Fmastery%2Finterest-form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) to their school’s Koplik Coordinator.

**Q. What about “academic achievements”, How do I know what is acceptable?**

A. [The Academic Achievements Pathways](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fscholarships%2Fmastery%2Facademic-achievement-pathways.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) document details what is accepted however it is important to note the following:

* At least ONE accomplishment must be in the area in which the student achieved a score in the range of “Proficient” or “Meeting Expectations” on the MCAS (If a student scores in the range of “Advanced” or ‘Exceeding Expectations” on all MCAS tests then (s)he may choose any combination of achievements noted provided they are not in the same content area)
* All achievements must be connected to the MA (content-area) Curriculum Frameworks
* “*General*” National Honors Society (NHS) membership is not accepted for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery however “*specific*” Honors society membership(s) (French, Art, History, etc.) IS accepted
* College courses cannot be in the same content area as the other achievements

**Q. What is the actual amount of the Koplik Certificate of Mastery:**

A. The Koplik Certificate of Mastery provides credit toward tuition at MA public colleges and universities but does not include fees, books, room and board, etc. Because tuition rates vary from school to school the amount of each credit is different. For current credit amounts, please refer to the chart on the Office of Student Financial Assistance website: <http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/kopliktable.asp>

**Q. How long can the Koplik Certificate of Mastery be used?**

A. The Koplik Certificate of Mastery may be used for 8 consecutive semesters at Massachusetts public colleges and university however students are required to maintain a G.P.A. of 3.3 for continued eligibility.

**Q. Does my child need to reapply?**

A. Once received; students do not need to reapply for the Koplik Certificate of Mastery however students are required to maintain a G.P.A. of 3.3 for continued eligibility **and** file a FAFSA each year, regardless of financial need.

**Q. We’ve gotten the letter and fulfilled the requirements, how do we apply?**

A. Take a few minutes to review the [Next Steps Document](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fscholarships%2Fmastery%2Fnext-steps.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK). If you would like to proceed, please note the application process below:

1. Koplik [Interest forms](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fscholarships%2Fmastery%2Finterest-form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) should be submitted to the Koplik coordinator[\*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/FamComm/Student/mastery.html#1) at your high school before April 15 of senior year to allow time for the student account to be created and application to be completed. Failure to submit an interest form by April 15 will result in your account not being created and you will forfeit the tuition credit.
2. Once an account has been created, students must log in and begin their applications by May 1. Failure to log in and begin the application before May 1 will result in your account being closed and you will forfeit the tuition credit.
3. While it is **STRONGLY** recommended that applications are completed before the end of the school year, it is important to note that since scores from tests taken in May and June are not reported until early July, the final application deadline is July 15. Failure to complete and submit the application by July 15 will result in an automatic “Declined” notice and you will forfeit the tuition credit.

\**Every public high school, regional high school, regional vocational technical high school and public charter high school is asked to assign a person to serve as the Koplik coordinator. The Koplik coordinator is responsible for:*

* *notifying students in their junior year who initially qualify for the Koplik Certificate;*
* *advising students on how they may fulfill the requirements;*
* *reviewing applications; and,*
* *submitting the names and addresses of students who successfully complete the requirements to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education via the security portal (this information may not be submitted via email)*

**Q. I met the initial qualifications but did not file an application before I graduated, can I apply now?**

A. Unfortunately applications cannot be filed after you have already graduated from high school.

**Q. I received the Koplik certificate before I graduated but went to a private university for my freshman year. Can I use my tuition credit now?**

A. The Koplik certificate must be used in the September following your high school graduation.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Most MA public colleges and universities require the hard copy of both the Koplik letter AND certificate. Upon approval, both of these are available in your account and accessible for 4 years after you graduate from high school. While the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) keeps an electronic database of Koplik recipients DESE **DOES NOT** print, mail or email certificates.