

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 district 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, in accordance with the district's grading policy and course requirements:

1. A final assessment for a course; or
2. A capstone or portfolio project; or
3. An equivalent measure as determined by the High School Principal.

A student enrolled in the Lynnfield Public Schools will be determined to have satisfactorily completed coursework and earned full credit in accordance with the district's grading policy and the requirements outlined below:

Content Area	Coursework Requirements	Notes
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	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:

Lynnfield High School offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements.

English Courses	Math Courses	Science Courses	US History Courses
English 9 CP English 9 H	Algebra I CP Algebra I H	Biology CP Biology H Biology AP	US History I CP US History I H
English 10 CP English 10 H	Geometry CP Geometry H	Chemistry CP Chemistry H Chemistry AP	US History II CP US History AP
English 11		Physics CP Physics H Physics AP	
AP English Language			
AP English Composition			
World Literature			

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities

The Lynnfield 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 who have been placed in out-of-district placements must meet the requirements of the competency determination policy

of the placing school district. Discussion of the competency determination must be a part of the IEP Team's transition planning.

English Language Learners

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

- Transcript review by the Principal of the High School.
- Additional course requirements as determined by the Principal of the High School.

Appeals Process

Current students and/or parents/guardians may appeal the determination of competency in accordance with the following district procedures:

Provide written appeal to the High School Principal within two weeks prior to the student's graduation date. The Principal will hold a hearing with the student and parent/guardian within three school days of receipt of appeal. Following the appeal hearing, the Principal shall render a final decision within two school days.

Those enrolled in the Lynnfield Public Schools in the classes of 2003 through 2024 that did not earn a diploma may also appeal the decision through the following process:

The student may request a transcript review to determine if they are currently eligible for a diploma pursuant to the district's current CD requirements. This request should be in writing sent to the high school principal. To be deemed eligible, the individual must have been previously enrolled in the district, met all local graduation requirements, not previously reported as a graduate in any district's Student Information Management System (SIMS) submission, and must meet the district's current CD and local graduation requirements.

LEGAL REFS:

[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 REFS:

Student Handbook
IKF Graduation Requirements

SOURCE: MASC - 2025