



Malden Public Schools

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Regular Meeting of the
Malden School Committee**

Monday, January 6, 2025

**Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent**



Agenda

- MCAS Updates
- Entry Findings in Process

Core Values



**Include and
Collaborate**



**Embrace
Growth**



**Do Right By
ALL Kids**

MCAS: Update on the Implications of Question 2

- Graduation Requirements
- Continued Importance of MCAS
- Next Steps

Criteria for Graduation

Massachusetts students have to meet both their district's **local requirements** and the standards of a **Competency Determination** to graduate.

This has not changed.

Malden's Local Graduation Requirements

Students in the Class of 2025 must pass a minimum of 21 credits (combination of 1.0 full-year credits, and 0.5 semester course credits) based on the following requirements:

- *4 years/credits of English (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade)*
- *4 years/credits of Mathematics, one of which must be an Algebra course*
- *3 years/credits of Science, one of which must be Biology (with lab requirement)*
- *3 years/credits of Social Sciences, which must include United States History I and II and the other in World History*
- *2 years/credits of Wellness (Physical Education and Health)*
- *2 years/credits from the following disciplines: Business, Technology Education, Fine Arts*
- *3 core/elective years/credits from any discipline*

Thanks to successful efforts over several years to adopt MassCore, the Class of 2026 and beyond will be required to pass 22 credits, including specific World Language (2 credits) and Fine Arts (1 credit) requirements.

Criteria for Graduation

Students have to meet both their district's **local requirements** and the standards of a **Competency Determination** to graduate.

This has not changed.

Competency Determination Before Question 2

The High School MCAS (ELA, Math, and Science) served as the Competency Determination.

Criteria for Graduation

Students have to meet both their district's **local requirements** and the standards of a **Competency Determination** to graduate.

This has not changed.

Competency Determination Now

The Competency Determination must now be defined by **School Committee policy**.

Competency Determination

Before Question 2

“The Competency Determination shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, foreign languages, and English, and shall represent a determination that a particular student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas **[as measured by] the 10th grade ELA, Math and Science MCAS Exams.**

Now

“The Competency Determination shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, foreign languages, and English, and shall represent a determination that a particular student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas ~~as measured by the 10th grade ELA, Math and Science MCAS Exams.~~ **[as measured by] satisfactorily completing 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 framework in the areas measured by the MCAS High School tests administered in 2023.**

MCAS Is Still Required & Important

- Federal and state law still require schools to administer the MCAS in grades 3–8 and high school, and students are required to participate
- The state is still legally required to use MCAS for accountability purposes: to measure school districts' performance and assign corrective action status
- MCAS is aligned to the standards and curriculum frameworks we use in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade
- MCAS is an effective measure of student readiness for all post-secondary opportunities

Next Steps

- Superintendent to present recommendation for the district's Competency Determination policy in February
- Interventions with current students in the Class of 2025 at risk of not meeting the graduation requirements
- Acceleration Academy to better prepare 9th and 10th graders for overall success, including on the high school MCAS tests

Entry Plan "Phase 4"

November-February: Analysis and Sharing of Findings in Process

- Priority Updates
- Additional Themes
- Opportunities for Engagement

Entry Plan Phase 4

November-February: Analysis and Sharing

Listening
and
Learning

Analysis of
input from all
groups

**Follow-up
surveys** with
both parents &
caregivers and
staff

**Engaging with
students** from
diverse groups

**Continued
observations**
of classrooms
and schools

**Focus groups
and town hall
meetings** by
topic

Report of
Entry
Findings

Emerging Priorities

Shared during December 2 Report of the Superintendent

Urgent

Communications

Extracurriculars

HS MCAS Prep

Attendance

Planning for 2025-2026

Recruitment

**High School
Schedules**

English Learners

Communications

- Parent/caregiver and staff surveys
- Improvement of current district website
- Preparing new website to launch this spring
- Developing a regular cadence of Superintendent updates
- Engagement through social media
- Establishing new district-wide communications platform for 2025–2026

Extracurriculars

- From the parent/caregiver survey: 84% said expansion of extracurricular activities was an urgent need
- Collaboration with principals to provide more afterschool clubs and activities for Middle School (6-8) students
- First wave of clubs to start this week!

High School MCAS Prep

Acceleration Academy for 9th and 10th graders

- Identified based on multiple data points including past MCAS performance.
- MCAS measures basic skills that are critical for students to have going forward.
- The Academy is designed to ensure these students are on track for graduation and prepared for the world beyond.

Attendance

- First message for families sent before winter break
- Collaborative development and implementation of a district-wide “Attendance Playbook”
 - *Schools are focusing on students near the “chronic absenteeism” threshold*
- Continued community engagement to stress the importance of daily attendance

Recruitment

- Progress being made in filling vacant positions since the beginning of the year
- Engagement with professional educational recruitment assistance to fill remaining vacancies
- On track to post anticipated openings earlier in the spring for next year

High School Schedules

Current State

- First semester, 664 students (approximately 1/3 of the school) currently have at least one “Directed Study”
- More than 120 students have 2 or more Directed Studies

Next Steps

- Collaborative review and design process
- Ensure that every student has a full schedule in 2025–2026 that prepares them for graduation and the broadest possible range of secondary options



Students in SSC

Photo Credit: Fatima
Husain for *The Blue
and Gold*

English Learners

- Ongoing integration of multilingual learners who have been taught in self-contained K-8 settings:
 - Completed: integration during lunch
 - In progress: integration during Exploratory periods
- Collaborative planning with educators and leaders to optimize next year's programming for English Learners in grades K-12

Additional Emerging Themes

*From Town Halls, Listening Sessions,
and Parent/Caregiver survey*

Urgent Attention Needed:

- Special Education
- Curriculum & instruction for advanced learners
- Recess & Physical Activity
- Teacher Support & Training

Longer-Term Concerns:

- Expanding Funding and Resources
- Mental and Physical Well-being
- Rigorous curriculum for all students
- World Language Education

Entry Plan Phase 4

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Report of
Entry
Findings

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

Graduation will be Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at MacDonald Stadium!

The last school day for Seniors will be Wednesday, May 28.

Code of Massachusetts Regulations:

"The scheduled school year for the graduating senior class of a high school... may conclude, and the school graduation may be held, up to 12 school days before the regular scheduled closing date of that school."

This year, school closes on Friday, June 13 so the earliest our Seniors' last day could be this year is Wednesday, May 28.

Thank you!

