

<b>POLICY FAMILY</b>	<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>500</b>
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**Policy 583: State Competency Determination for Eligibility for a High School Diploma  
Adopted 03/26/2025**

In order for a student to receive a diploma from Shrewsbury High School a student must satisfactorily complete the local graduation requirements established by the Shrewsbury School Committee and earn the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Competency Determination in three subjects: English, mathematics, and science & technology/engineering, as required by state law (MGL Chapter 69, Section 1D), as amended by statewide ballot question in November 2024, stating that the state's competency determination (CD) shall be earned "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 frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one I administered in 2023, and in any additional areas determined by the board."

**State Requirement for Competency Determination (CD):**

Based on the amended state law, the awarding of a fully certified diploma from Shrewsbury High School (SHS) requires meeting the CD through demonstration of mastery of the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, and science or technology/engineering at the level previously assessed by the state MCAS exams (measuring 9th and 10th grade standards for English language arts and mathematics, and 9th grade *or* 10th grade standards for science & technology/engineering).

Prior to the passage of the ballot question in November 2024, the state's MCAS exams served as the state's CD. Beginning with the Class of 2025, a successful CD requires either a qualifying score on the MCAS prior to December 5, 2024 or passing coursework certified by SHS that meets the state's CD requirements.

To meet state requirements, SHS students may earn the CD as follows:

English: A passing grade in two of the following courses:

- English 9
- English 10
- Essential English 9
- Essential English 10

Mathematics: A passing grade in two of the following courses:

- Foundations of Algebra and Geometry I
- Algebra and Geometry I
- Algebra and Geometry II
- Essential Math 9
- Essential Math 10

Science & Technology/Engineering: A passing grade in one course in any of the following:

- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Technology/Engineering

Students who do not meet the required passing grades in the above prescribed courses may enroll in summer school, credit recovery courses, or be scheduled to take additional coursework by their school counselor that meet the same Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards. These opportunities will provide a student who has yet to meet the CD requirements additional opportunities to meet this state standard for a diploma.

### **Certificate of Attainment**

In order to be eligible for a Certificate of Attainment from Shrewsbury High School instead of a diploma, a student who does not meet the state Competency Determination must satisfactorily complete the local graduation requirements and any additional criteria set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **Transfer Students**

In the event that a student transfers into Shrewsbury High School at any point during their high school career, a transcript review will be conducted by a School Counselor and the Director of School Counseling. An Assistant Principal will review their recommendation to ensure that the coursework from the previous school is aligned with SHS coursework for the CD prior to the decision as to whether the CD has been satisfied being conveyed to the student and their family. If the CD is not granted and the student and family disagree, an appeal of the decision may be made to the Principal. The Principal shall be the arbiter for all disagreements regarding the transcript review, and the principal's decision on transcript reviews as related to CD will be final.

### **Future Updates to this Policy**

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary should state law, regulations, and/or guidance regarding the Competency Determination requirements for Massachusetts public school students change, and will be reviewed within five years regardless of any changes at the state level.

References:

Policy 582  
MGL Chapter 69, Section 1D