

**SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
100 MAPLE AVENUE  
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
Thursday October 30, 2025**

Present: Ms. Rachel Sharifipour, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Rajesh Velagapudi, Member; Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools; and Ms. Amy Clouter, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

This meeting was conducted in-person at Shrewsbury Town Hall, 100 Maple Avenue, Selectmen's Room  
Meeting start time: 8:30 am

The Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from Thursday, October 2, 2025 were reviewed and accepted as submitted.

The Policy Subcommittee met to review and have a discussion on the state-required update to Policy 583 regarding high school competency determination to qualify for a diploma. In March 2025, the Shrewsbury School Committee adopted Policy 583. In order for a student to receive a diploma from Shrewsbury High School (SHS), a student must be able to satisfactorily complete the local graduation requirements that have been established by the Shrewsbury School Committee and earn the state's Competency Determination in three subjects (English, Math, and Science/Technology). This was amended by a statewide ballot question held in November 2024 that no longer required passing of the MCAS test for graduation. At the time of the adoption of Policy 583, the Shrewsbury School Committee included that they would review and update, as necessary, should state law, regulations, and/or guidance regarding the Competency Determination requirements for MA public schools change.

In January 2025, the Governor of Massachusetts signed an executive order establishing a K-12 Statewide Graduation Council which would be asked to make recommendations on how MA can ensure all students graduate with skills necessary to succeed and can demonstrate a consistent statewide set of expectations. While there has not been anything definitive yet that has been recommended by the state, there is early conversation on high school students needing to pass tests tied to specific coursework to graduate. Regardless, each school district in Massachusetts needs to, by December 31, 2025 have a Competency Determination (CD) policy.

To meet this, at Shrewsbury High, Principal Todd Bazydlo, along with Amy Clouter, Assistant Principal Maureen Monopoli and others have been meeting to review the requirements within Shrewsbury. We have also been looking to see what other local area high schools are doing, as well. Working closely with Director of English Language Education (ELE) Christina Manos and High School Special Education Director Meg de Leon regarding our English Language Learner

(ELL) and special education students and how to ensure they have equal opportunity to meet the CD requirements. There was also discussion around late enrolling students and what to do with their coursework they have previously completed in other locations—either within or outside of Massachusetts.

Discussion occurred regarding what grade would equal passing and would then earn course credit—a grade of 60 (current) or raise this to a 70. Mr. Velagapudi asked if we would be able to see the difference in numbers of students who would pass at a 60 versus pass at a 70. Ms. Sharifipour added we clearly want a standard but we do not want to put barriers in place to obtaining a diploma.

Also discussed that starting with the graduation year of 2003 (when MCAS requirements started), students have a right to appeal to earn a diploma if they did not pass the MCAS. We only have a handful of students this would apply to.

Although we will discuss this at a future school committee meeting, it is important to engage stakeholders in this process. While the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does require stakeholder feedback, the Policy Subcommittee feels that once we have an updated draft to our CD policy, we should solicit feedback. Ms. Sharifipour suggested that to add an additional layer to the feedback, we should also engage both the SHS School Council and the Oak School Council.

Meeting end time: 9:15am

Associated document: 10-02-25 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes