

High School Competency Determination (CD) Policy

- Our approved High School MCAS Policy remains in effect. Please note that the Competency Determination policy is in **addition** to the SICS MCAS Policy; **it does not replace it.**
- 1) **Core coursework:** To meet the CD, DESE requires the following of all High School Students: 2 years of Mathematics (1 year of Algebra and 1 year of Geometry or 1 year of Integrated Math I and one year of Integrated Math II), 2 years of High School English Language Arts (ELA), 1 year of 1 of the following Science Courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Technology and Engineering, and, starting in 2027, 1 Year of United States History.

SICS, to maintain our high academic standards, will continue to require the following core coursework to earn a local diploma:

Mathematics: 4 years of Mathematics with the minimum completion of Integrated Math III.

ELA: 4 years of High School ELA.

Science: A minimum of 3 years of laboratory science.

History: A minimum of 3 years of History, 2 of which must be United States History Courses.

- 2) **Demonstration of Course Mastery:** DESE requires schools to provide a mechanism for which students can demonstrate mastery of core courses. SICS will create syllabi for all core courses used for CD which are aligned to State Curriculum Frameworks. All students will complete End of Year exams which will count for 15% of their year-end grade which questions which are also aligned to Curriculum Frameworks. Students who do not pass core courses used for CD will be required to take and pass them in our Summer School program.
- 3) **Support of Students with Disabilities:**

The IEP Team—which includes the Director of Special Services, College Counselor, General Education Teacher, Special Education Teacher, parent/guardian, High School Principal, and Education Team Leader (ETL)—is responsible for reviewing each student's progress toward meeting graduation requirements. Based on the student's disability-related needs, the team ensures that classroom instruction and assessment procedures reflect the appropriate accommodations and modifications outlined in the IEP. When necessary, the IEP Team may make determinations to adjust SICS

graduation requirements to support the student's individual learning needs, provided those adjustments continue to meet or exceed the Massachusetts Core.

- **4) Transcript Review for Late Enrollees and Students in the Class of 2026:** Each summer, prior to the start of the Academic Year, the SICS College Counselling Team completes a transcript review for all students. Students who are late enrollees to SICS or members of the Class of 2026 and have not demonstrated proficiency on any of their MCAS exams are placed in appropriate core courses to ensure they can earn their CD.
- **5) Appeal Process:** The High School Principal will determine which Seniors have earned their CD. Those who the Principal determines have not met their CD have the right to appeal this decision to the School Director and/or their designee. If the student has a disability, the Director of Special Services will also be included on the appeal.

If the student and family chooses to appeal the Principal's decision, they will be granted an expedited hearing with the Appeal Team. The appeal must be requested in writing no later than June 30th of the corresponding school year. At this hearing, the Appeal Team will review both documentation provided by the Principal as well as any additional evidence or documentation provided by the student or family. Both the Appeal Team and the student and family will have the opportunity to ask questions.

If the Appeal Team overrides the Principal's decision, it will make recommendations as to how the situation will be remedied to allow the student who has appealed a path to a timely graduation.