

MVRHS 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 or by any other appropriate methodology as may be determined by the School Committee:

- The final assessment for a course; or
- A capstone or portfolio project; or
- An equivalent measure identified in the district's CD policy.

A student enrolled in the Martha's Vineyard 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, or the equivalent of one year of both Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II. Whether to follow an Algebra/Geometry or Integrated Math I/II course sequence is determined by the district, but the equivalent length of the courses must still be met.	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:

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School offers the following courses in alignment with the state curriculum frameworks that meet the above requirements.

English

- English 9 C1, English 9 Honors Accelerated, English 9 CA Project Vine
- English 10 C1, English 10 Honors, English 10 Humanities, English 10 Humanities Honors, English 10 CA Project Vine, ELL 2 English

Math

- Algebra 1 C1, Algebra 1 Honors
- Geometry, Geometry Honors, Advanced Geometry Honors

Science

- Biology, Biology Honors, Advanced Placement Biology
- Or Physics C1, Physics Honors, AP Physics, Chemistry C1, Chemistry Honors, AP Chemistry

History (beginning with the graduating class of 2027)

- American Studies, Advanced Placement US History

Additional Considerations

Students with Disabilities

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School 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 Martha's Vineyard Regional High School 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 Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in one or more of the following ways:

- Transcript review by the Principal.
- Additional course requirements as determined by the Principal.
- A qualifying MCAS score of at least meeting or exceeding expectations achievement levels on the relevant high school MCAS assessment; or by meeting the standard for a substituted equivalent that the district certifies satisfies the same academic standards.

Appeals Process

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

1. Submit a written request to the Principal.
2. The appeal will be reviewed by the Competency Determination Review Committee, which will include the Principal, Director of Guidance, Director of Special Education, or other appropriate staff members as needed. The review may include transcript evaluation, teacher input, and/or portfolio review. The principal shall be the arbiter for all disagreements in transcript review.
3. Appeals of the committee's decision must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent within 10 school days of the decision. The Superintendent's decision on the appeal is final.

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

Eligible former students may request a transcript review to determine CD eligibility by submitting a written request to the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Guidance Office. The Competency Determination Review Committee will review the request and make a final determination of competency.

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

Approved by the MVRHS School Committee on 1/5/2026.

SOURCE: MASC - 2025