

September 29, 2025

Massachusetts High School Graduation Requirements Initial Draft Recommendations and Considerations

Provided by the Graduation Council Co-Chairs: Secretary Tutwiler and
Commissioner Martinez

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Aligning Coursework to Higher Education Admissions Requirements

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students engage in a rigorous program of study that aligns required coursework to the minimum coursework requirements for admission at four-year state colleges and universities (MassCore with modifications).

Considerations:

- Expanding flexibility of MassCore to free up time in students' schedules
- Alternatives for certain student populations
- Integrating MassCore and educational paths such as Chapter 74 and Early College
- Implementation timelines and waivers
- Building capacity for support and oversight

MASTERY

End-of-Course Assessments

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students take end-of-course assessments (EOCs) that are connected to specific courses and that are designed, administered, and scored by the state, promoting a uniform standard across Massachusetts.

Considerations:

- Determining which courses will have EOCs
- Defining the role of EOCs as part of the graduation requirement
- Establishing appropriate accommodations, supports, and alternative formats for EOCs
- Impact on the overall assessment landscape

Capstones or Portfolios

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students complete capstones or portfolios that are defined by the state, and designed, administered, and scored locally, promoting customized opportunities for deep and authentic demonstration of mastery.

Considerations:

- Defining standards for capstones and portfolios across districts
- Supporting implementation and ensuring equitable access
- Role of capstones and portfolios in graduation

COLLEGE, CAREER, AND CIVIC READINESS

MyCAP

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students will be required to develop and maintain a MyCAP (My Career and Academic Plan).

Considerations:

- Ensuring clarity and consistency of process and requirements
- Supporting diverse paths for students
- Supporting implementation and monitoring

FAFSA/MASFA Completion

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students will be required to complete the FAFSA/MASFA, with option to opt out of the requirement.

Considerations:

- Establishing a low barrier opt out process
- Supporting implementation and monitoring
- Promoting equity and access

Financial Literacy

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students will be required to develop knowledge and skills in financial literacy.

Considerations:

- Establishing a mechanism for developing financial literacy
- Supporting implementation and monitoring
- Continued program updates and resources

Optional Seals of Distinction

Initial Draft Recommendation: Students will have the option to earn state-designated seals of distinction to recognize their achievements.

Considerations:

- Defining the specific accomplishments (academic, career readiness, civic, etc.) that would be recognized by seals
- Developing a clear process for tracking seal attainment and granting seals
- Ensuring equitable access to seals for all students