



December 16, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Approval of Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements Policy

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements Policy.

The policy revisions are being present for a second reading

Description: With the elimination of the MCAS as a graduation requirement the revisions for students to be eligible to receive a high school diploma are:

- Complete local graduation requirements prescribed in the Cambridge Public Schools High School Graduation Requirements Policy IKF
- Complete requirements prescribed in the Cambridge Public Schools Determination Policy IKF-1

Supporting Data: Cambridge School Department's Policy regarding High School Graduation Requirements

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Murphy".

David Murphy,
Superintendent of Schools

IKF - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Those students who complete the prescribed course of study in the high school in a manner satisfactory to the principal and the Superintendent shall receive diplomas or certificates signed by the Mayor, the Superintendent and the high school principal. A list of students entitled to such diplomas or certificates shall be sent to the Executive Secretary of the School Committee not later than June tenth of each year.

High School Graduation Requirements

Graduation is a very important event for our students, their families, friends, and the entire community. Students must earn 224 (two hundred twenty-four) credits in order to be eligible to graduate with a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School diploma. [Effective the class of 2028, in light of the additional course requirements enumerated below, students must earn 240 \(two-hundred forty\) credits in order to be eligible to graduate with a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School diploma.](#)

The credits are broken down as follows:

English - 40 (forty) credits

Science - 30 (thirty) credits

Math - 40 (forty) credits

Social Studies (which includes U.S. History) - 30 (thirty) credits

World Language - 20 (twenty) credits

Visual, Performing or Technical Arts - 20 (twenty) credits

Health - 15 (fifteen) credits

Physical Education must be taken once per year

A swimming requirement must be fulfilled

The balance of credits are earned through electives

~~In addition to completing local graduation requirements, in accordance with the requirements of federal and state law, students must pass the English, Math and Science portions of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate from CRLS and receive a CRLS diploma. Students who do not pass the English, Math and Science portions of the MCAS but have completed local graduation requirements receive a certificate, to be eligible to receive a high school diploma, students must complete the requirements contemplated by the Cambridge Public Schools Competency Determination Policy as prescribed in Policy IKF-1.~~

The Health II course will be optional for the Class of 2026 and 2027. The Health II course will be mandatory beginning with the Class of 2028. Students can take the class in ~~either~~ grade 10, 11 or 12.

The Class of 2028 will be made aware of these changes in the requirement in the Spring 2024 and Fall 2025.

Early Graduation

The high school shall establish procedures for the purpose of permitting students who have fulfilled graduation requirements early with the opportunity to graduate early with such early graduations occurring no earlier than the beginning of the second semester of Grade 11.

Last updated: ~~March 5, 2024~~ December 16, 2025