

**Amendment to 603 CMR 30.03
Standards for Competency Determination, History and Social Science**

- **Initial consideration by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and vote to solicit public comment: March 22, 2011**
- **Period of public comment: through May 3, 2011**
- **Final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education anticipated: May 24, 2011**

The proposed amendment would revise section 30.03(4) of the regulations, deleting the obsolete reference to the classes of 2012 and 2013 and stating that the Competency Determination requirement for history and social science would take effect in the third consecutive year that the history and social science high school assessment is administered, in order to provide fair notice to students and schools about performance levels and expectations before the assessment counts towards the Competency Determination required for high school graduation.

Having solicited and reviewed public comment in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, G.L. c. 30A, § 3, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is expected to adopt the regulations in final form at its meeting on May 24, 2011.

The proposed amendment to the regulations is indicated in the excerpt below by ~~strike through~~ (deleted language) and underscore (new language). Please see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=all> for the full text of the current regulations.

603 CMR 30.03: Standards for Competency Determination (excerpts)

- (1) Students in the graduating classes of 2003 through 2009 shall meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on both the English Language Arts and the Mathematics MCAS grade 10 tests in order to satisfy the requirements of the Competency Determination.
- (2) Students starting with the graduating class of 2010 must satisfy one of the following two conditions in both English language arts and mathematics to earn a competency determination.
 - (a) meet or exceed the Proficient threshold scaled score of 240 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests, or
 - (b) meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan.

- (3) Students starting with the graduating class of 2010 shall, in addition to meeting the requirements found in 603 CMR 30.03(2), take a discipline specific high school Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS test (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering) and shall meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the test in order to satisfy the requirement of the Competency Determination.
- (a) Students starting with the graduating class of 2010 shall take a discipline specific high school Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS test (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering) by grade 10.
 - (b) The Commissioner may waive the requirement to take the test by grade 10 for an individual student for good cause. Good cause for such a waiver may include a student's illness or a student's transfer into the Massachusetts public schools after grade 10.
- ~~(4) Students starting with the graduating class of 2012, in addition to meeting the requirements contained in 603 CMR 30.02(2) and (3), shall meet or exceed the Needs Improvement scaled score of 220 on the History and Social Science high school MCAS test.*~~

~~* Note to 603 CMR 30.03(4):~~

~~On February 24, 2009, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to waive the history and social science requirement for a Competency Determination (603 CMR 30.03(4)) for students in the classes of 2012 and 2013, due to budget constraints. This temporary waiver means that students in the graduating classes of 2012 and 2013 must meet the Competency Determination standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering, but not history and social science, as a condition of high school graduation. The Board intends to establish a timeline for reinstating the history and social science requirement for the Competency Determination as expeditiously as possible.~~

- (4) Starting in the third consecutive year that the History and Social Science high school assessment is administered, in addition to meeting the requirements contained in 603 CMR 30.02(2) and (3), students shall meet or exceed the passing standard on the History and Social Science high school assessment.

(Remainder of regulation is omitted; for full text of the current regulations, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=all.>)