

Massachusetts



Department of  
Education

# Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools

February 2001



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# Massachusetts Department of Education

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This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Education  
Dr. David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education

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David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

February 2001

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present a Massachusetts Department of Education report on *Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools*, detailing local requirements for graduation from our public schools. Curriculum requirements for graduation are determined almost exclusively by local districts. This report, prepared by Jennifer Butler in the Office of Academic Affairs and Planning, presents and examines these graduation requirements on a district-by-district basis.

Graduation requirements were obtained from current student handbooks received from all of the local and regional public high schools, vocational-technical schools, and charter high schools in the Commonwealth. Highlights from the survey are contained in the report.

I believe this report will be very useful as we continue working together toward raising academic standards for all students in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

## **Executive Summary**

The data in this report reflect information on local graduation requirements received from all of the local and regional public high schools, vocational-technical schools, and charter high schools in Massachusetts. As the data show, local school districts have considerable discretion in choosing curriculum requirements for graduation. Following are major findings from this survey, including specific findings for each of the three categories of schools.

- The majority of Massachusetts districts require their high school students to take four years of English, three years of mathematics, three years of science, and three years of history/social science to receive a diploma.
- Despite this trend, local districts vary widely both in specific subject areas required for graduation and in number of years required per subject.

### **Local and Regional Public High Schools**

Of the 226 local and regional public high schools in the state:

- 98 percent require four years of English
- Nearly 78 percent require at least three years of mathematics
- 66 percent require three years or more of science
- 87 percent require at least three years of history/social science
- 36 percent have a foreign language requirement
- Among all schools in this category, the number of academic courses required ranges from seven to 22
- The total number of credits required ranges from 60 to 150

### **Vocational-Technical and County Agricultural High Schools**

Twenty-six of the 30 vocational-technical and county agricultural high schools in the state list graduation requirements in years rather than credits. Of these:

- 100 percent require four years of English
- 100 percent require a minimum of three years of mathematics
- 76 percent require at least three years of science
- 72 percent of schools require three or four years of history/social science

### **Charter High Schools**

Eight of the 11 charter high schools in Massachusetts list graduation requirements in years. Of these:

- All eight require four years of English
- Seven of the eight require four years of mathematics
- All require at least three years of science and half require four years
- All eight require at least three years of history/social science
- Seven of the eight schools have a foreign language requirement

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993, amended in 1994, mandated the establishment of a competency determination in five academic subjects. Pursuant to this law, the Board of Education adopted a passing score of 220 on assessments given in grade ten in two of these subjects, English language arts and mathematics, starting with the class of 2003. In addition to this new state requirement, districts specify their own local curriculum requirements for high school graduates.<sup>1</sup> This survey examines those requirements on a district-by-district basis.

The accompanying chart details graduation requirements in all Massachusetts public high schools. All numbers and notes in the chart are derived from current student handbooks, submitted by 100 percent of the local and regional public high schools, vocational-technical schools, and charter high schools in the state.<sup>2</sup> Each category of schools is presented separately.

Graduation requirements are defined in varying ways, so it was necessary to standardize the total number of required credits to the extent possible for purposes of accurate comparison. To that end, there are two columns in the chart showing total credits. The column entitled "Total Reported Credits" contains the total number of credits required for graduation as reported in each district's student handbook. Many schools calculate total credits based on a five-credit per full-year course standard; therefore, that is the standard used in this analysis to calculate comparable figures for total credits. These figures are presented in the "Total Equated Credits" column. If a district's student handbook specifies the number of credits it assigns per full-year course (typically, four, five, or six credits), and if it assigns other than five credits per full-year course, the ratio was adjusted so that the number in the "Total Equated Credits" column reflects the five-credit per full-year course standard. If the number of credits a district assigns per course is not apparent from the student handbook, that column is left blank. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

In each category, districts are listed alphabetically with the number of years required for each major subject and any additional graduation requirements. Unless otherwise noted, all courses are assumed to be full-year courses. Following are highlights from the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> According to Massachusetts state law, the only subjects required at both the elementary and the secondary levels are American history and civics (G.L. c. 71, s. 2) and physical education (G.L. c. 71, s. 3).

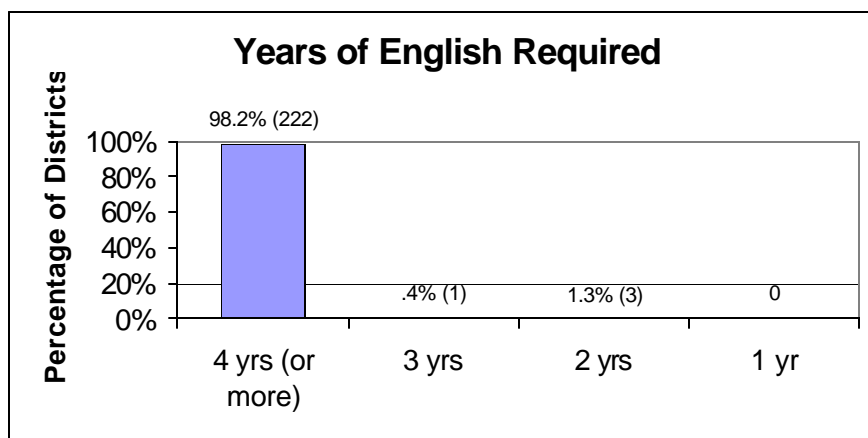
<sup>2</sup> In December, 2000, district superintendents were asked to review a draft of the data. Any reported changes or updates have been incorporated.

## Local and Regional Public High Schools

Of the 226 local and regional public high schools in Massachusetts, all have graduation requirements in four major subject areas: English, mathematics, science, and history/social science. Additional requirements in the arts, foreign languages, computers/technology, and community service are specified by some districts. This section summarizes graduation requirements in these eight areas as defined by local and regional public high schools. Number of courses and number of equated credits required are also provided.

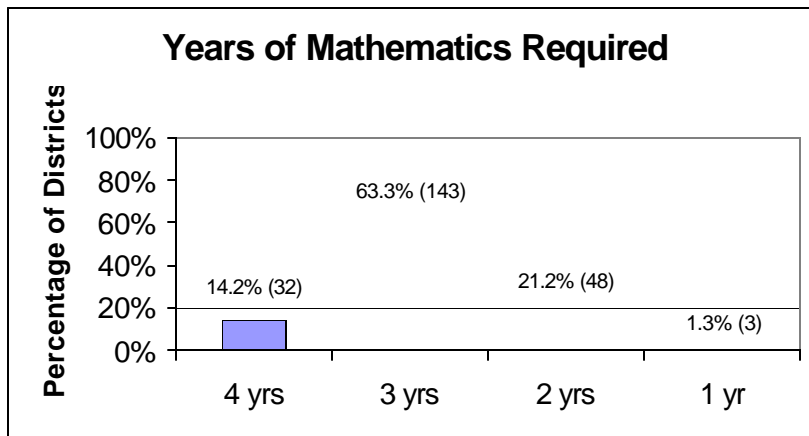
### Subjects Required in All Local and Regional Public High Schools

- The vast majority (98.2 percent) of Massachusetts local and regional public high schools require four years or more of **English** prior to graduation. Sixteen districts (7.1 percent) require 4.5 years or more and four districts (1.8 percent) require three or fewer years.<sup>3</sup>

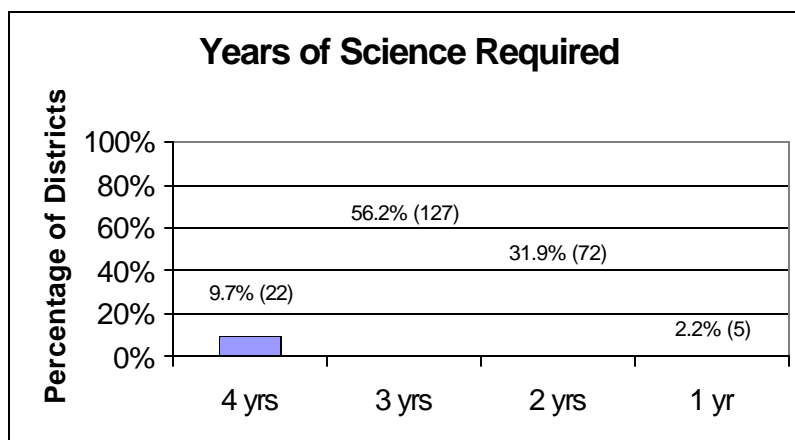


<sup>3</sup> Note: In the accompanying graphs, partial years are rounded down to the next whole year (e.g., 3.5 years is counted as three years). In addition, percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

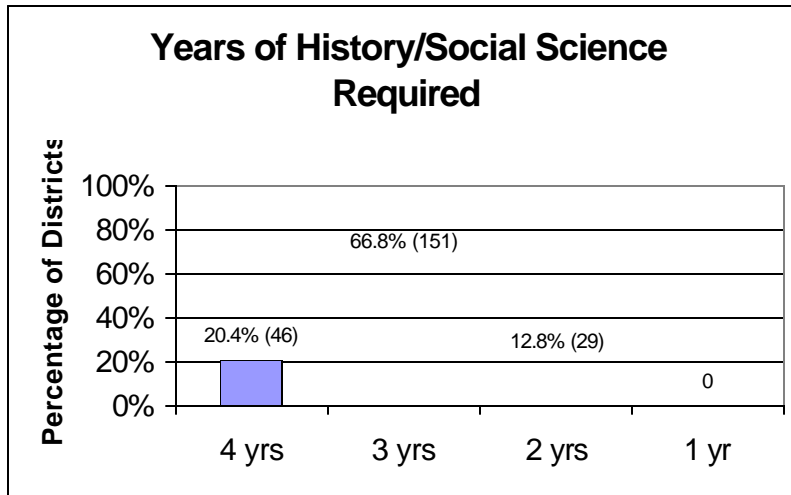
- A majority (63.3 percent) of districts require three years of high school **mathematics**. An additional 32 districts (14.2 percent) require four years and 51 districts (22.6 percent) require two or fewer years.



- Just over half the districts (56.2 percent) require three years of high school **science**. Twenty-two districts (9.7 percent) require four years, while 72 (31.9 percent) require two years. Thirty-nine districts (17.3 percent) specify biology as one of the required science courses. An additional eight districts require at least one laboratory science.

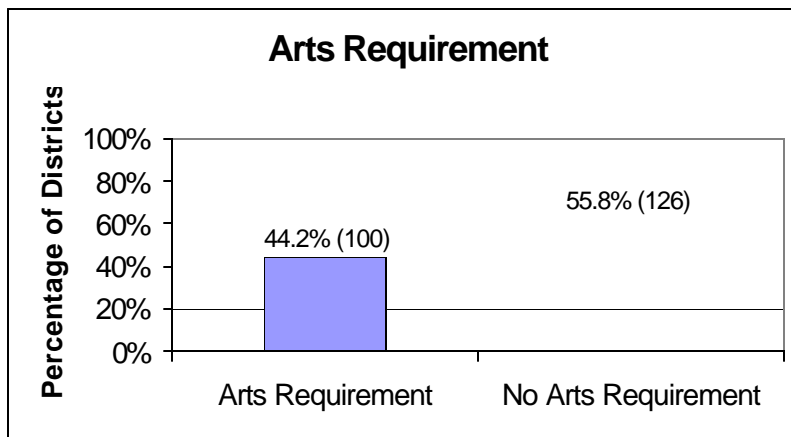


- A majority (66.8 percent) of Massachusetts high schools require three years of **history/social science**, with 46 districts (20.4 percent) requiring four years and 29 districts (12.8 percent) requiring two years. In accordance with Massachusetts state law, all districts provide U.S. history in high school. Seventeen districts (7.5 percent) have an additional requirement for a course in American government and 14 districts require two or more years of U.S. history.



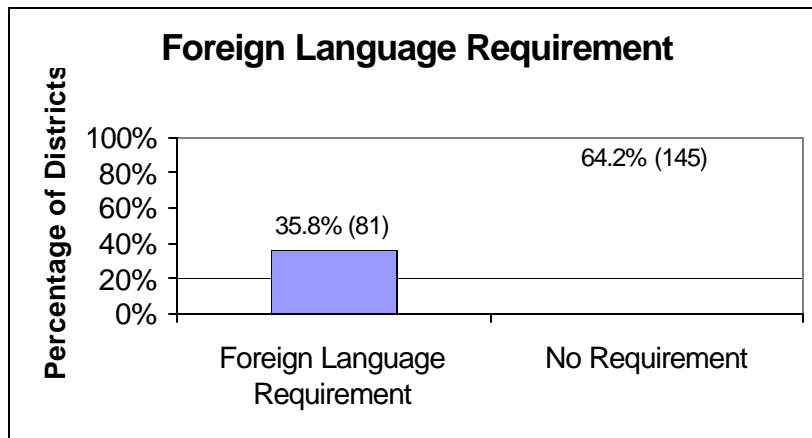
**Additional Requirements in Some Local and Regional Public High Schools**

- One hundred of the 226 districts (44.2 percent) have an **arts** requirement, ranging from one-half year to four years. The majority (66 percent) of these 100 districts require one year of art in high school.

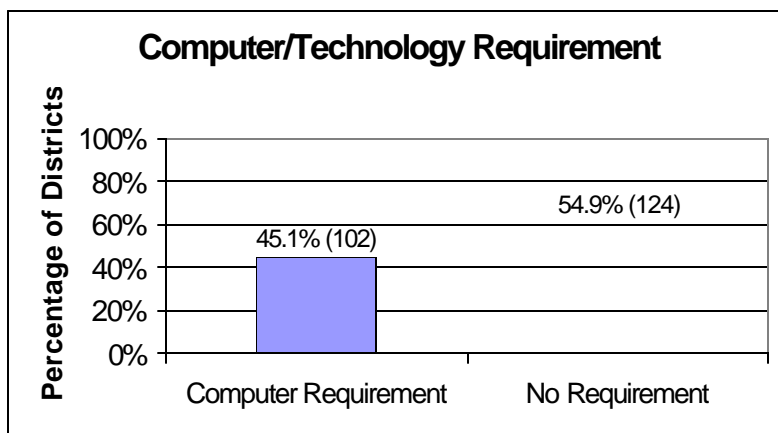




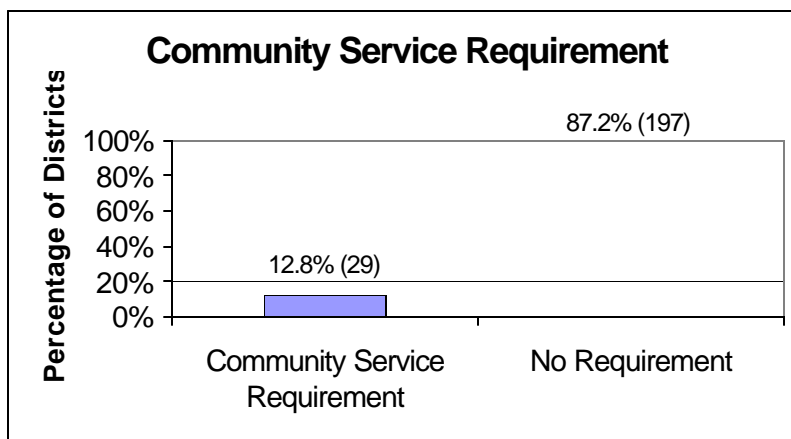
- Eighty-one districts (35.8 percent) require a **foreign language** in high school. Seventy percent of these 81 require two years of the same foreign language. Five districts require three years or more, while 15 require one year or less.



- One hundred and two districts (45.1 percent) require courses in **computers/technology** as part of their high school graduation requirements, ranging from one-quarter year to two years. Nineteen of these districts (18.6 percent) give students the option of demonstrating proficiency instead of completing a course requirement.

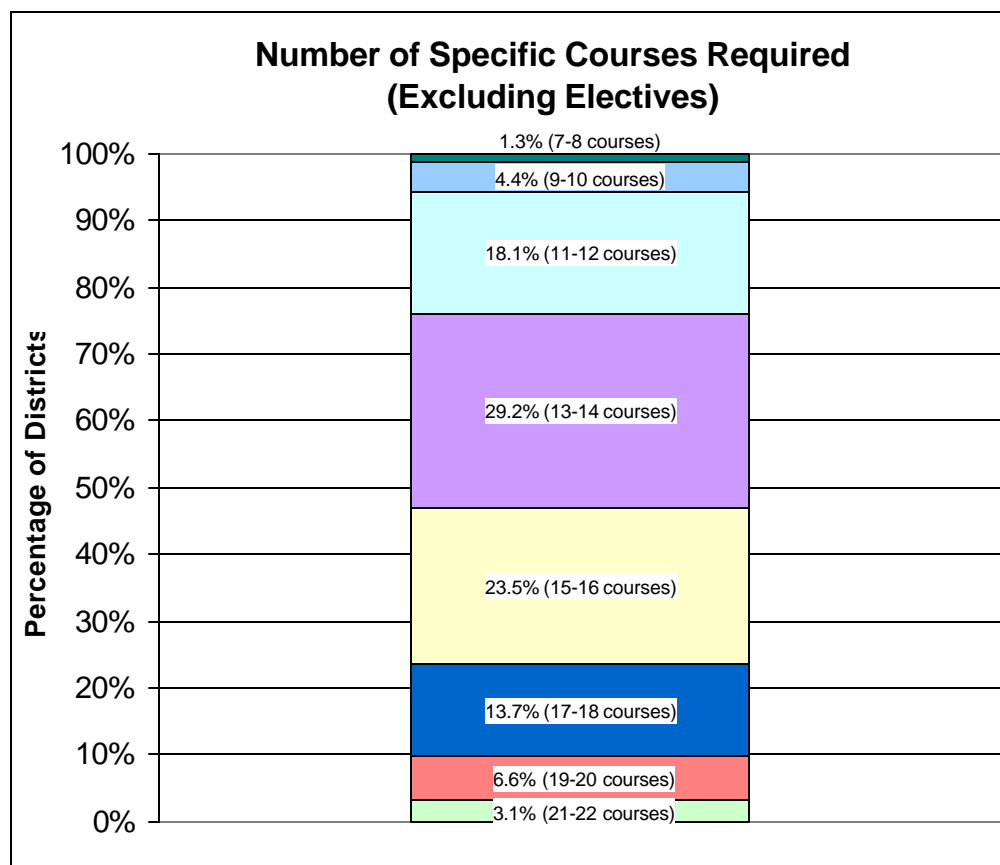


- Twenty-nine districts (12.8 percent) require **community service** in high school, ranging from 10 hours to 60 hours.



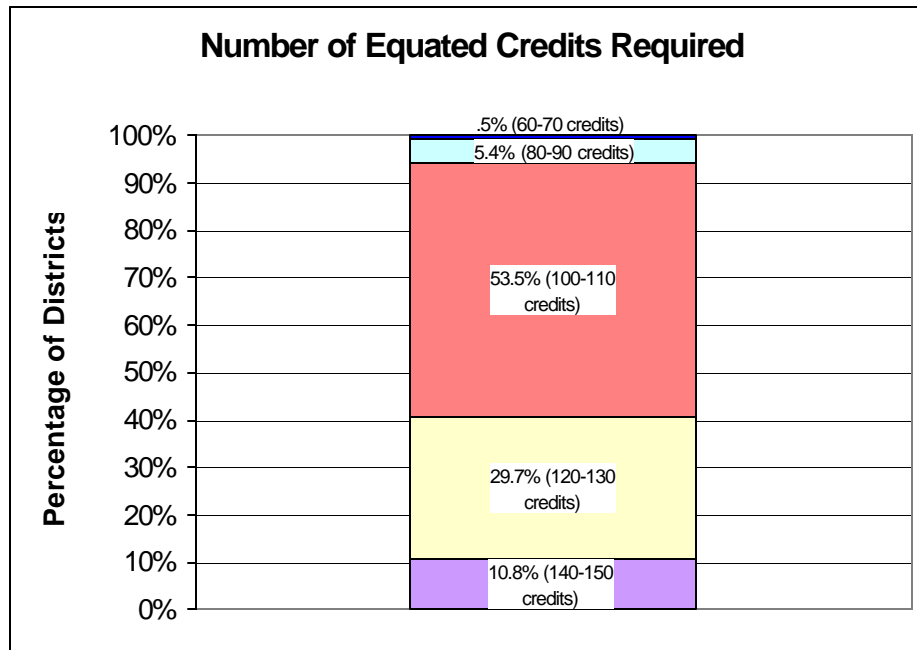
**Number of Courses Required for Graduation**

- The number of specific academic courses (not including electives) required for graduation ranges from seven to 22. The vast majority (76.1 percent) of districts require 13 or more specific academic courses, with nearly half (46.9 percent) requiring 15 or more.



### Number of Credits Required for Graduation

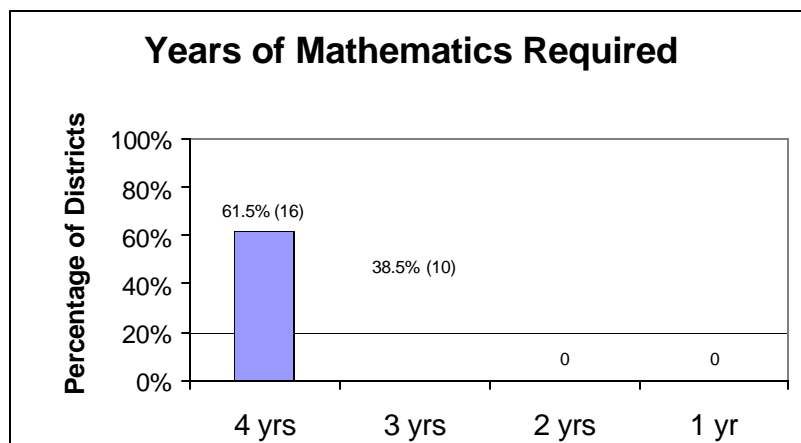
- Of the 185 districts for which total credits were able to be standardized for this report, 94.1 percent require 100 or more credits for graduation. Eleven districts (5.9 percent) require fewer than 100 credits, while 20 (10.8 percent) require more 140 credits or more.



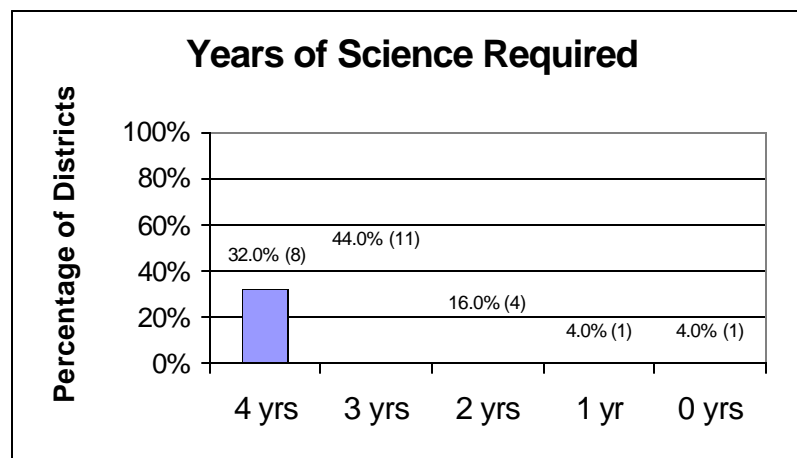
## Vocational-Technical and County Agricultural Schools

This section details graduation requirements in the four major subject areas for the 27 vocational-technical and three county agricultural schools in Massachusetts. For additional requirements, see the chart accompanying this document.

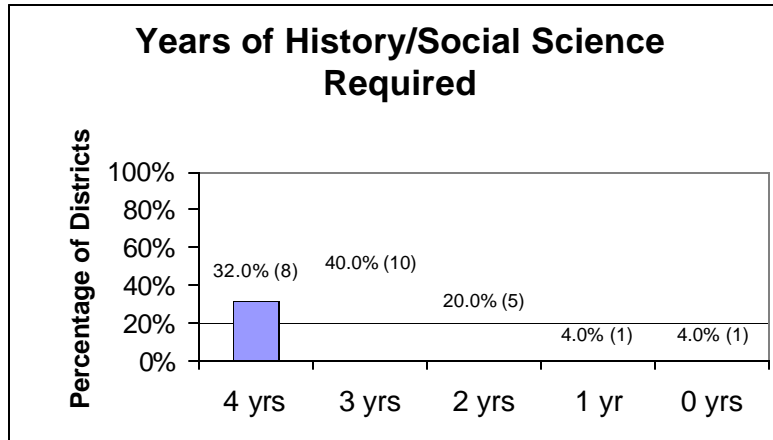
- Of the schools for which graduation requirements were listed in years rather than credits (26 of 30), all of them (100 percent) require four years of **English**.
- All of these 26 schools require at least three years of high school **mathematics**. The majority (61.5 percent) require four years of mathematics and ten (38.5 percent) require three years.



- The majority (76 percent) of schools require at least three years of **science**. Eight schools (32 percent) require four years and six schools (24 percent) require two or fewer years.



- Eighteen schools (72 percent) require at least three years of high school **history/social science**, with eight schools (32 percent) requiring four years. Seven schools (28 percent) require two or fewer years.



## Charter High Schools

Of the 40 charter schools in Massachusetts, 11 serve high school students. It should be noted that most of the charter high schools have competency-based graduation requirements, which typically entail preparation of a portfolio of student work related to a given academic standard. Many schools also require exhibition or presentation of student portfolios to a panel of faculty members as a demonstration of competency. An attempt was made to translate these competency-based requirements into the quantitative format used in this analysis; however, for the most part, it does not most accurately reflect the qualitative nature of the requirements as detailed by the schools themselves. Further, the fact that some schools do not specify a certain number of years of a particular subject does not necessarily mean that they do not have a requirement in that subject. The following summary is based on those schools for which requirements were able to be listed quantitatively. For further information, please consult each school's student handbook or annual report.

- Eight of the eleven charter high schools require four years of **English** for graduation. The remaining three have a competency-based English requirement.
- Seven schools require four years of high school **mathematics**. One school requires three years and the remaining three require students to demonstrate competency.
- Eight of the eleven schools require at least three years of **science**. Four schools require four years and one school requires two years.
- Eight schools require at least three years of high school **history/social science**. Three require four years and one school requires two years.
- Seven schools have a **foreign language** requirement, ranging from two to four years.
- Five schools specify an **arts** requirement, ranging from one to four years.
- Seven of the eleven schools have a **computer/technology** requirement.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
<b>Local and Regional Public High Schools</b>												
Abington	4	3	3	3					13	120	120	
Acton-Boxborough	4	2	2*	3				one additional yr of English, History, Math, Science, or language required	12	80	80	
Adams-Cheshire	4	4	3*	4*					15	100	100	* # of years of SS and Science may be switched
Agawam	4	3	3	3*		2	0.5		15.5	110	110	* SS credits must include 2 yrs of World History and Geography in addition to US History
Amesbury	4.5*	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.5	1	1	.5 yr Child Dev and Parenting; 40 hrs community service	38 quarter courses	56	(112)	* Amesbury uses a block scheduling system. All classes are in quarter-year blocks and meet for 80 minutes, 5 days a week.
Amherst	4	2	2*	3					11	88	(110)	* must be lab science
Andover	4	3	3	3	3*	2		20 hrs community service	18	26	(130)	* arts or applied technology
Arlington	4	2	1	2					9	96	(120)	
Ashburnham-Westminster	4	3	3	3		2	1		16	26	(130)	
Ashland	4.5	2	2	2*	1		1	10 hrs community service	12.5	20	(100)	* 1 yr early American and 1 yr modern American history
Athol	4	4	4	4	1		1.5		19.5	27	(135)	
Attleboro	4	3	3	3					13	100	100	
Auburn	4	2	2	3					11	100	100	
Avon	4	3	3*	3			0.5		13.5	105	105	* includes Biology
Ayer	4	4	4	4	1		2	30 hrs community service	19	135	135	
Barnstable	4	3	3	3		1			14	24	(120)	
Bedford	4	3	3	3	1	1		.5 yr occupational ed	15.5	110	110	
Belchertown	4	3	3	3		2			15	99	99	
Bellingham	4	2	2	3				1 additional yr of English, Math, Science, SS, or combination	12	20	(100)	
Belmont	4	4	4	3	1	2		40 hrs community service	18	100	100	

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Berkshire Hills	4	2	2	3	1			.5 yr Advanced Communications; Basic Skills competencies; Maturation and Awareness experiences	12.5	23	(115)	
Berlin-Boylston	4	3	2	3			demonstrated proficiency		12	110		
Beverly	4	3.5	3	4	1		1 yr or demonstrated proficiency		16.5	130	130	
Billerica	4	3	2	3	1				13	100	100	
Blackstone-Millville	4	3	3	3		2	1		16	24	(120)	
Boston	4	4	3	3	1	2	0.5		17.5			
Bourne	4	3	3	3					13	24	(120)	
Braintree	4	3	3*	3**	1	2	1		17	115	115	* includes Biology and 2 Physical Science ** includes American History and American Government
Bridgewater-Raynham	4	3	3	3				1 yr reading in 9th grade unless reading at grade level	13	100	(100)	
Brockton	3	2.5	2.5	2.5					10.5	95		
Brookline	4	1	1	2	1	1		1 yr Career and Technology Education	11	19	(95)	
Burlington	4	4	3*	3		2	1		17	110	110	* includes 1 yr Life Science and 1 yr Physical Science
Cambridge	4	3	3	3	1	2		Technology Proficiency requirement (5 projects); 1 yr Technical or Practical Arts	17	224	(112)	
Canton	4	2	2*	3	1		0.5		13	94		* one science with lab
Carver	4	3	3	3					13	98	98	
Central Berkshire	4	3	3*	4**			0.25		14.25	110	110	* includes Biology ** includes .5 yr American Gov't and .5 yr Economics
Chatham	4	3	3	4	1		1		16	29	(145)	
Chelmsford	4.5	3	3	3	1.5	2		1.5 yrs Practical Arts	18.5	240	(120)	

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Chelsea	4	4	3	4*	0.5	2	0.5		18	100	100	* includes American Gov't
Chicopee	4	4	2	2	1		0.5	.5 yr Career Awareness; .5 yr Entrepreneurship	14.5	120	120	
Clinton	4	3	3*	3**	1	2	0.5	.5 yr Freshman Seminar	17	230		* includes Biology, Physical Science ** includes American Gov't
Cohasset	4	2	2	3					11	175		
Concord-Carlisle	4	2	2	2				2 yrs Art, Foreign Language, or Music; 2 additional yrs from at least 2 of the following depts: Applied Technologies, Computer, Math, Science; 40 hrs community service	14.5	100	100	
Danvers	4	3	3.5	3	0.5		.5 or pass competency exam	1 yr Senior Seminar	15.5	125	125	
Dartmouth	4	3	3	3	1			.5 yr Workplace Dynamics	15.5	28	(140)	
Dedham	4	3	3	2		2		1 yr Economics; 20 hrs community service	16	111	111	
Dennis-Yarmouth	4	2	2	3	1.5				12	30	(100)	
Dighton-Rehoboth	4	2	2*	2					10	110	110	* 1 yr Biology
Douglas	4	3	2*	4**		1	1	Senior seminar	16	114	114	* includes Biology ** includes American Gov't
Dover-Sherborn	4	3	3*	3	2	3	1	40 hrs community service	19	140	(117)	* lab sciences
Dracut	4.5	3	3	4					14.5	22	(110)	
Dudley-Charlton	4	2	2	3					11	21	(105)	
Duxbury	4	2	2*	3	0.5	1	demonstrated proficiency	.5 yr Family and Consumer Sciences or Technology Education	13	130	130	* 1yr Biology

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

**Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools  
(in years)**

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
East Bridgewater	4	3	3	3	2	2	0.5		17.5	110	110	
East Longmeadow	4	3	3*	3	1	2	1 or demonstrated proficiency	1 yr Practical Arts; 40 hrs community service	18	112	(140)	* 1 yr Biology
Easthampton	4	3	3	3	1*		2	1 yr Remedial Math and/or Remedial English for all students who fail the MCAS in 8th or 10th grade	16	108	(135)	* or World Language
Easton	4	3	2	3			demonstrated literacy	1 yr Business/Technology; 1 yr of combination of Music, Industrial Arts, Art, Home Economics	14	120	120	
Everett	4	3	3	4					14	90		
Fairhaven	4	3	3	3	1		0.5	.5 yr Learning to Learn	15	96	(120)	
Fall River	4	3	3	3				1 yr Economics	14	140	140	
Falmouth	4	2	2	2.5				1 yr of Arts, Business, Life Skills, Technology Education, or Computer Science	12.5	88	(110)	
Fitchburg	4	3	3	3.5*					13.5	230	(115)	* includes a semester of U.S. Government
Foxborough	4	3	3*	3		2		1 yr of Music, Art, Technology, Consumer and Family Studies, Business, or Theatre in any combination	16	21	(105)	* includes Biology
Framingham	4	3	3	3	1	2		1 yr Practical Arts (includes Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Business, and Computers)	17	110	110	
Franklin	4	3	3*	3				2 yrs Foreign Language, Business, Fine Arts, Home Ec, or Industrial Arts	15	120	120	

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Freetown-Lakeville	4	3	3	3			1 or demonstrated proficiency	.5 yr Technical Communications	14.5	100	100	
Frontier	4	4	3	4*				2 yrs Business and Information Technology	17	140	140	* includes American Gov't
Gardner	4	3	2	4		2	1		16	110	110	
Gateway	2	1.5	1.5	2	1	0.5	0.75	.5 yr Technology; .25 yr Speech	20 semester courses	130	(65)	
Georgetown	4	3	3*	3			1		14	115	115	
Gill-Montague	4	4	4	4	1		1	1 yr Humanities	19	140	140	
Gloucester	4	3	3	3	1		1		15	112		
Grafton	4.5	3	2*	3				1 course in Consumer Business or Accounting or Personal and Family Living	13.5			
Granby	4.5	4	4*	4	0.5		1		18	140	140	* includes Physical Science and Biology
Greenfield	4	2	2*	3	2				13	116		* includes 1 yr Physical Science and 1 yr Biology
Groton-Dunstable	4	3	3	3	1	2	.5 or demonstrated proficiency	Senior Project	17.5	27	(135)	
Hadley	4	3	3*	4**		not specified	1		14	130	130	* includes Biology ** includes Topics in American Democracy
Hamilton-Wenham	4	2	2	3		2	0.5	.5 yr Senior Decisions	14	138	(115)	
Hampden-Wilbraham	5	3	3	3	1			1 Applied Arts course	16	140		
Hampshire	4	2	2	3				30 hrs community service	11	22.5	(112.5)	
Hanover	4	3	3	3		2	1	1 yr Technology	17	115		
Harvard	4	2	2*	3				.5 yr Humanities	11.5	22	(110)	* includes Biology
Harwich	4	2	2	4					12	24	(120)	
Hatfield	4	3	2	3			1	1 yr Technology	14	125	125	
Haverhill	4	3	3	3	1*		0.5	1 yr School to Careers	15.5	20	(100)	* Fine Arts or Foreign Languages

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February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Hingham	4	3	3	2					12	100		
Holbrook	4	3	2	3			1		13	100	100	
Holliston	4.5	3	3	3	2	2	1		18.5	26	(130)	
Holyoke	4	3	2	2					11	120		
Hopedale	4	2	2	3					11	24	(120)	
Hopkinton	4	3	2*	3**	1				13	113	113	* includes Biology ** includes American Gov't
Hudson	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1 course Applied Arts; 1 course Language Arts	20	108		
Hull	4	3	3	3					13	110	110	
Ipswich	4	3	3	4		2 yrs or proficiency exam	demonstrated proficiency	1 additional yr of Math or Science	17	125	125	
King Philip	4	3	3	3					13	120	120	
Lawrence	4	2	2	2	2				12	100	100	
Lee	4	2	2	2				1 additional yr of Math or Science	12	23	(115)	* total of 5 credits in math/science
Leicester	4	3	3*	3					13	155		
Lenox	4	3	3	3	0.5	1	.5 or demonstrated proficiency		15	120	120	
Leominster	4.5	3	4*	3	1		1		16.5	240	(120)	* includes Physical and Life Sciences
Lexington	4	4	4.5	4	2	2		40 hours community service	20.5	104	(130)	
Lincoln-Sudbury	4	2	2*	3	1	2		15 hrs community service	14	89	(111.25)	* includes Biology and Physical Science
Littleton	4	3	3	3				28 hours community service	13	100	100	
Longmeadow	4	2	2	3			demonstrated proficiency		11	94	94	
Lowell	4	2	1	2					9	85	(85)	
Ludlow	4	3	2*	2**					11	102	102	* includes Biology ** includes U.S. Gov't
Lunenburg	4	3	3	3	2	1			16	23	(115)	
Lynn	4	3	3	3		3	1		17	100	100	
Lynnfield	4	3	3	3	0.5		0.5	35 hrs community service	14	108		

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Malden	4	3	3*	3				2 yrs total of combination of Business Technology, Technology Education, or Fine Arts	15	22	(110)	* includes Biology
Manchester Essex	4	3	3	3					13			
Mansfield	4	2	2	3					11	130		
Marblehead	4.5	3	3*	4	2**	2	1		19.5	110		* includes Physics, Biology, and Chemistry ** or technology education
Marlborough (grades 8-12)	5	4	4	4	1	2	1	Word Processing course required	19	126		
Marshfield	4	3	3*	4**	1	2	1		18	96	(120)	* includes Physical Science and Biology ** includes Gov't/Ec
Martha's Vineyard	4	3	3	3.5		2*	.5*		16	120	120	* or demonstrated competency
Masconomet	4	3	3	3		2		40 hours community service	15	110	110	
Mashpee	4	4	4	4	1	1		1 yr Applied Arts	19	24	(120)	
Maynard	4	3	2	3					12	110	(110)	
Medfield	4	3	3	3	1	2			16			
Medford	4	3	3*	3	1	3	1	60 hrs community service	18	112		* includes Biology and Chemistry
Medway	4	3	3	3				5 credits Art, Music, Home Ec, Industrial Arts, Keyboarding	14	108	108	
Melrose	4	3	3	3	2	1		12 hrs community service	16	24	(120)	
Mendon-Upton	4	3	2*	3					12	22	(110)	* includes Biology
Methuen	4	3	3	3					13	24	(120)	
Middleborough	4	2	2	3					11	126	126	
Milford	4	4	3	4	1	2		1 yr Practical Arts	19	130	130	
Millbury	4	3	3	3			1		14			
Millis	4	3	3*	3		2			15	110	110	* includes one yr each of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
Milton	4	4	3	3	1		0.5	.5 yr Speech; community service requirement	16	120	120	

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Mohawk Trail	4	4	4	4	1	2	1		20	156	(130)	
Monson	4	2	2	3*					11	110	110	* includes .5 yr Advanced Gov't
Mount Greylock	4	3	3	3					13	234	(117)	
Nantucket	4.5	4	3*	3	1**		1		16.5 semester courses	32		* includes 1 yr Marine Science or Physics and 1 yr Biology ** 1 yr Fine Arts and World Languages
Narragansett	4	3	2	4				.5 yr Keyboarding	13.5	23	(115)	
Nashoba	4	3	3	3	1	2	1		17	90	(112.5)	
Natick	4	3	3.5	2.5*			0.5	2 yrs Voc/Life Ed (Art, Business, Foreign Language, Home Ec, Industrial Technology/Arts, Music); 30 hrs community service	15.5	110	110	* includes .5 yr American Gov't
Nauset	4	2	2	3					11	26	(130)	
Needham	4	3	3	3	2	2		must demonstrate proficiency .5 yr Community Classroom; .25 yr Senior Project	17	92	(115)	
New Bedford	4	2	2	3		2			13	24	(120)	
Newburyport	4	2	2	4		2			14	80	80	
Newton	4	2	2*	3	1				12	100	100	* 1 yr Biology and 1yr Physical Science
North Adams	4	3	3	3			0.5		13.5	22	(110)	
North Andover	4	3	3	3				1 yr Art, Music, Technology, Business	14	100	100	
North Attleborough	4	3	3	4	1			.5 yr or proficiency .5 yr Consumer Education	16	110	110	
North Brookfield	4	3	3	3*			0.5		13.5	96	96	* includes Gov't
North Middlesex	4	3	2	4	0.5		0.5		13	100	100	
North Reading	4	4	4	4	2	2		1 yr Occupational Education	21	28	(140)	

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Northampton	4.5	3	3	3				2 additional yrs of Math, Science, Social Studies, English, or World Language	15.5	112		
Northborough - Southborough	4	3	3	3	0.5		0.5	.5 yr Economics	14.5	110	110	
Northbridge	4	4	4	4		2	1		19	140	140	
Norton	4	3	3	3			1	2 yrs of combination of Business, Fine Arts, Practical Arts, or Computer Science	14	112		
Norwell	4	4	4	4	2	3			21	110	110	
Norwood	4	2	2	3			0.5		12	80		
Old Rochester	4	2	2	2				must also include a 3 yr sequence in a discipline other than English	10	110		
Oxford	4	3	3	3		2			15	110	110	
Palmer	4	3	3	3				1 yr Humanities (Art, Music, and Language); 1/4 credit community service	14	22 1/4	(111.25)	
Peabody	4	3	2	3					12	115	115	
Pentucket	4.5	3	3*	3.5			demonstrated proficiency	.5 yr Applied Arts and Sciences; 1 yr Fine and Performing Arts/Foreign Language	15.5	115	115	* includes Physics or Chemistry and Biology
Pioneer Valley	4	3	3	3				.5 yr Home Economics; .5 yr Keyboarding	14	104	104	
Pittsfield	4	2	2*	2				2 yrs Human Development	12	260	(130)	* 1 yr Biology and 1 yr Chemistry or Physics
Plymouth	4	3	3	3					13	110	110	
Provincetown	4	3	2	2					11	24	(120)	
Quabbin	4	4	4.5*	4	1				17.5	140		* includes Biology and Environmental Science
Quaboag	4	3	2*	3			1		13	24	(120)	* includes 1 lab science
Quincy	4	3	3	4		2			16	110	110	
Ralph C. Mahar	4	4	4	4	4	2		1 yr School to Work	22	140		
Randolph	4	3	3	3	1.5		1	Composition class; 60 hrs community service	16	24	(120)	

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Reading	4	3	3	3	1	2		.5 yr Decisions; 1 yr Practical Arts	17.5	90	(112.5)	
Revere	4	4	3	3		2	0.5		17.5	138	(115)	
Rockland	4	2	2	2*				25 hrs community service	10	20	(100)	* includes American Gov't
Rockport	4	3	3	4	1	TBA	1	50 hrs community service	16	120	120	
Salem	4	3	3	3			1		13.5	24	(120)	
Sandwich	4	4	4	4			0.5		16 semester courses	28	(140)	
Saugus	4	3	2	3					12	100		
Scituate	4	3	3	3		2		2 yrs Fine or Practical Arts; 50 hrs community service	17	80	(100)	
Seekonk	4	4	4	4	1	2	1 or demonstrated proficiency	1 yr Practical Arts	21	140	140	
Sharon	4	3	3	3	1			4 yrs total of Community Service, Guidance, and Health	14	102	102	
Shrewsbury	4	3	3	3	0.5				13.5	105	105	
Silver Lake	4	3	3	3	0.5		demonstrated proficiency	.5 yr Practical Arts; 40 hrs community service	14	96	(120)	
Somerset	4	3	3	3	1		1	1 yr Career Education	16	144		
Somerville	4	3	3	3	1				14	105	105	
South Hadley	4	3	3	3		2			15	104	(87)	
Southbridge	4	3	2	3					12	108	108	
Southern Berkshire	4	3	3	3	2		2		17	28	(140)	
Southwick-Tolland	5	3	3*	4	2	2	1	1 yr Applied Arts	21	140	140	* includes 1 yr Biology
Spencer-Brookfield	4	3	3*	3		1	0.5		14.5	29	(145)	* includes Earth Science and Biology
Springfield	4	3	3	3		2			15	24	(120)	
Stoneham	4	2	2*	4	1		demonstrated proficiency		13	120		* must include Earth Science

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Stoughton	4*	3	3	3.5	0.5			.5 yr Applied Arts or Foreign Language	15	115	115	* includes .5 yr Writing Workshop
Sutton	4	4	4	4	1				17	28	(140)	
Swampscott	4	3	3*	3	1.5**			.5 or demonstrated proficiency	14.5	100	100	* must include Biology, Physics, and either Chemistry or Environmental Science **2 courses in Practical and Fine Arts
Swansea	4	3	3	4				2 yrs Business	16	105		additional requirements for college prep and students in the Technical Curriculum
Tantasqua	4	3	3*	3	1			1 1 yr Practical Arts	16	120	120	* includes Biology
Taunton	2	1.5	1.5	2					14 semester courses	140		
Tewksbury	2	4	3	2	2	2		4 yrs (20 credits) World Studies; 1 yr Applied Arts	22	140	140	
Triton	4	3	3	3	2*				15	100	100	* Fine or Practical Arts
Tyngsborough	4	2	2	3	1*	2			14	120	120	* Fine or Practical Arts
Uxbridge	4	4	4	4*		3		40 hrs community service	19	144	144	* includes U.S. Gov't
Wachusett Regional	4	3	3	3*	1	2			16	110	110	* includes U.S. Gov't
Wakefield	4	2	2	2					10	100	100	
Walpole	4	3	3*	3	2	1			16	115		* must be lab science
Waltham	4	3	2	2	1			1 yr Practical Arts	13	120	120	
Ware	4	2	2*	2				5 additional courses in Humanities and Arts; 3 additional courses in Science/Technology	19	28	(140)	* includes Biology
Wareham	4	3	2	3	1			1 yr Business Technology	15.5	115	115	
Watertown	4	3	3	3	1			demonstrated community service project	14	134		
Wayland	4	2	2	3					11	76	(95)	
Webster	4	3	2*	3					12	115	115	* includes Earth/Physical and Biology
Wellesley	4	2	2	2					10	120		
West Boylston	4	3	3	3	1	2		1	17	150	150	
West Bridgewater	4	4	4	4	2	2		1 yr Communications; community service requirement	22	140		

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
West Springfield	4	2	2*	3					11	115	115	* includes Biology
Westborough	4	3	3*	3					13	24	(120)	* must include 2 lab courses
Westfield	4	2	2	3	1			.5 yr Personal Finance	11.5	22	(110)	
Westford	4	3	3	3			0.5		13	111.5	111.5	
Weston	4	3	2*	2		1		.5 yr Speech; 1 additional year Science or SS	13.5	100		* includes Biology
Westport	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	.5 yr Freshman Experience; .5 yr Intro to Business Technologies	16	150	150	
Westwood	4.75*	2	2	2	1	2		1 additional year of Math or Science	15	115	115	* includes .5 yr Reading and .25 yr Oral English
Weymouth	4	3	3*	4				1 yr Unified Arts or Career and Technical	15	20	(100)	* includes Biology
Whitman-Hanson	4	4	4	4			1		17	106	(132.5)	
Wilmington	4	3	3*	3	2		1		16	115	115	* 2 yrs must be lab courses
Winchendon	4	3	3*	3**			0.5	.5 yr Research in Technology	14	110	110	* includes Biology ** includes American Gov't
Winchester	4	2	2*	3	1				12	110	110	* includes 1 yr Biology and 1 yr Physical Science
Winthrop	4	3	3	3		2	1	2 yrs Humanities; 2 additional yrs Math/Science	20	130	130	
Woburn	4	4	4*	4				additional unspecified credits in Business Education, World Languages, Home Ec, Technology, Education, Art, Music, Health, and Phys Ed	16	100	100	* includes 1 yr Biology
Worcester	4	3	2*	3					12	24	(120)	* all Science courses include labs
<b>Vocational-Technical and County Agricultural High Schools</b> [Note: Numbers in brackets [] indicate credits.]												

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Assabet Valley	4 [16]	4 [14]	3 [8]	4 [8]				3 yrs Shop for vocational certification		106		
Blackstone Valley	4 [8]	3 [6]	3 [3]	3 [3]				4 yrs Vocational-Technical Program; 2 yrs (24 credits) Related		48		
Blue Hills	4 [8]	3 [6]	3 [3]	3 [3]				4 yrs (32 credits) Shop; 3 yrs (6 credits) Technology/Related Subjects		61		
Bristol County Agricultural	4 [16]	4 [16]	4 [16]	3 [10]				4 yrs (32 credits) Shop; 2 yrs (8 credits) Shop Related				
Bristol-Plymouth	4 [20]	3 [15]	3 [7.5]	3 [7.5]				4 yrs (80 credits) Shop; 3 yrs (15 credits) Related		137		
Cape Cod Regional	4	4	3.6	4				3 yrs Technical Program Theory; 4 yrs Technical Program; Business related courses				
Essex Agricultural (credits)	[4]	[3]	[3]	[3]				18 credits Agriculture		31		
Franklin County	4	4	3	3				4 yrs Vocational Program; Portfolio requirement		133		
Greater Fall River	4	4						4 yrs Shop Related		140		
Greater Lawrence	4	3	2	2				3 yrs Related Theory; Shop		16		
Greater Lowell	4	4	4	4				3 yrs Technical Program		153		
Greater New Bedford	4 [12]	4 [6]	4 [6]	4 [6]				4 yrs Shop; 3 yrs (10 credits) Related		128		

\1 Figures are adjusted only where necessary. Adjusted figures are shown in parentheses.

## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/ Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Minuteman	4 [12]	4 [8]	4 [8]	4 [8]				8 credits electives, including World Language; 1 yr (12 credits) Career Exploration; 3 yrs (36 credits) Technical Study		100		
Montachusett (credits)	[4]	[4]	[3.5]	[2.25]				1.75 credits Computer Literacy/P.E./Health/ Electives; 19.5 credits Vocational Program		35		
Nashoba Valley	4	4	4	4				4 yrs Technical Program; 4 yrs electives, including World Languages, Academic Intensive, Skills Lab, Reading, Math and Language Enrichment				
Norfolk County Agricultural	4	3	2		3			4 yrs Vocational		70.5		
Northampton-Smith	4 [24]	4 [12]	[6]	[6]				4 yrs Shop		138		
Northeast Metro	4 [16]	3 [15]	2 [10]	1 [4]				4 yrs (85 credits) Shop and Related		155		
Northern Berkshire	4 [4]	4 [4]	4 [3]	4 [2]				4 yrs (16 credits) Voc/Tech				
North Shore	4 [20]	4 [20]	3 [15]	3 [12.5]				4 yrs (80 credits) Shop and Related; 1.25 credits Discovery or Reading; 1.25 credits Word Processing		160		
Old Colony	4 [20]	3 [7.5]	1 [2.5]	2 [5]				4 yrs (74 credits) Shop; 3 yrs (15 credits) Shop Related		128		
Pathfinder	4	3	3	2				4 yrs Shop and Related		150		
Shawsheen Valley	4	3	2	2				3 yrs Shop and Related				
Southeastern (credits)	[20]	[7.5]	[7.5]	[2.5]				1 Business course; 70 credits shop; 2 yrs Related		130		

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
South Middlesex	4	4	4	4				Tech Prep				
South Shore (credits)	[24]	[12]*	*	[12]				48 credits Vocational Technical Program; 36 credits Related Technical Instruction		128		* 12 credits Math/Science combined
Southern Worcester	4 [4]	4 [4]	3 [3]	3 [2.5]				4 yrs (18 credits) Shop; 4 years (4 credits) Related Theory Science		36		
Tri County	4	4	4	3				4 yrs Shop; 2 yrs Related		140		
Upper Cape Cod (credits)	[18]	[15]	[12]	[6]				33 credits Shop; 3 credits Microcomputer Applications; 1.5 credits Technology; 1.5 credits Cluster Related; 3 credits Occupationally Specific Theory		167		
Whittier	4 [25]	4 [10]	4 [10]	4 [15]				4 yrs (35 credits) Vocational-Technical Program		100		

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
<b>Charter High Schools</b> [Note: Schools marked with an asterisk (*) have requirements that are highly qualitative rather than quantitative in nature. An attempt was made to translate those requirements into the format used in this analysis; however, for the most part, they do not accurately reflect the qualitative nature of the requirements. For further information, please consult each school's student handbook or annual report.]												
Boston Evening Academy*	4	4	4	4				Demonstration of subject competencies through Exhibitions and final Portfolio presentation; 500 hrs school-to-career or 4 community service				
Champion*								Demonstrated mastery of Core Academics and Foundation Skills through portfolio presentation; enrollment in two dual-enrollment community college courses; Autobiography Curriculum; 100 hrs internship/community service				
City on a Hill	4	4	3	3			3	swimming requirement; City Project (intensive research, community project)				
Francis W. Parker*	4	4	4	4	*		2	successful completion of Senior Project and Senior Seminar; portfolio exhibition; * community service				* Arts and Computer requirements integrated into curriculum
Health Careers Academy	4	4	4	4	1		2	1				

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## Local Graduation Requirements in Massachusetts Public High Schools (in years)

February 2001

District	English	Math	Science	History/Social Science	Arts	Foreign Language	Computers/Technology	Other	Total Required Courses (excluding PE/Health and Electives)	Total Reported Credits	Total Equated Credits \1	Notes
Lowell Middlesex Academy*	*	*	2	2			demonstrated proficiency	demonstrated competency in Ethics, Citizenship, Non-Violent Conflict Resolution, Parenting, Career Readiness, and Post-Secondary Readiness				* English and Mathematics requirements are based on demonstrated competency
Martha's Vineyard*								five portfolios and one juried exhibition; demonstrated understanding of Curriculum Frameworks through 12th grade level and General School Objectives; 250 hours community service				
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts	4	3	4	3	4	3		must take 2 performing arts classes each semester; one internship in the performing arts of at least 16 hrs per year				
Sabis International	4	4	3	3	2	4	1					
Somerville	4	4	3	3	2	4	1					
South Shore	4	4	3	3		2	certification in Microsoft Office	1 yr Ethics; must pass 1 college-level course in 11th and 12th grades; must complete 2500 word research paper; 40 hrs community service				

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