



Rising Tide Charter Public School shall award a high school diploma to students who have satisfied the Competency Determination (CD) requirement in accordance with M.G.L. c.69, § 1D (i) in addition to meeting the existing graduation requirements for Rising Tide Charter Public School.

RTCPs Competency Determination Requirements

(Students who have previously met the MA Competency Determination requirements through successful completion of MCAS testing through the November 2024 retests have met the Competency Determination requirements and are exempt from any new requirements set by Rising Tide Charter Public School.)

Coursework Completion

A student must successfully complete, by earning a passing grade (60 or above) and earning full credit for the following courses:

- English I (taken in grades 9-12)
- English II (taken in grades 9-12)
- Algebra I (taken in middle school or high school)
- Geometry (taken in middle school or high school)
- One of the following courses (taken in grades 9-12):
 - Intro to Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Technology and Engineering
- One of the following courses (taken in grades 9-12):
 - U.S. History I or U.S. History II

Determining Mastery of Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

A student must earn a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment for each of the following courses:

- English I (taken in grades 9-12)
- English II (taken in grades 9-12)
- Algebra I (taken in middle school or high school)
- Geometry (taken in middle school or high school)
- One of the following courses (taken in grades 9-12):
 - Intro to Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Technology and Engineering
- One of the following courses (taken in grades 9-12):
 - U.S. History I or U.S. History II

Additional Considerations

All Students

If any student is eligible for successfully completing a course required for the CD, but has not earned a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment for the course, the student may retake the final before June 30 of that school year to demonstrate mastery.

If any student has completed an English Language Arts or Mathematics course required for the CD, but has not earned a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment for the course, the passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment of a more advanced course may demonstrate mastery. The following more advanced courses may be considered for a student to demonstrate mastery:

- English Language Arts
 - English III
 - English IV
 - Advanced English Composition
 - Advanced Literature Study
- Mathematics
 - Algebra II
 - Algebraic Functions & Trigonometry
 - Advanced Precalculus
 - Advanced Calculus

Mathematics Courses Taken in Middle School

If a student has taken Algebra I or Geometry in middle school, the transcript record of successful course completion (60 or above) and a record of earning a passing score on the final assessment (60 or above) will meet the CD requirement for the course.

If the record of a student's passing score on the final assessment (60 or above) is not available for a mathematics course taken in Middle School, a student may meet the CD requirement for the course through either of the following options:

- Earning a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment of a more advanced course may demonstrate mastery to meet the CD requirement for the course
- Meeting or exceeding the expectations on the MCAS test for high school mathematics

Late-Enrolling Students

If a student enrolls in grades 10, 11, or 12, the transcript record of successful course completion (60 or above) and a record of earning a passing score on the final assessment (60 or above) for any courses required for the CD will meet the CD.

If the record of a student's passing score on the final assessment (60 or above) is not available for any courses required for the CD, a student may meet the CD requirement for the course through either of the following options:

- Earning a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment of a more advanced course may demonstrate mastery to meet the CD requirement for the course
- Meeting or exceeding the expectations on the MCAS test for high school mathematics

Students with Disabilities and English Learners

If a student with disabilities and/or a student who is an English Learner

participates in a modified version of a course required for the CD, the completion of the modified course and passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment for the modified course will meet the CD requirement for that course.

If a student with disabilities and/or a student who is an English Learner has completed a course required for the CD, or a modified version of that course, but has not earned a passing score (60 or above) on the final assessment for the course, the student may retake the final before June 30 of that school year to demonstrate mastery. Additionally, the student may have additional opportunities to retake the final for the course, which may include accommodations such as chunking the final assessment, as determined by the Principal and lead teacher of the course.

If a student with disabilities and/or a student who is an English Learner has not earned a CD by the beginning of grade 11, they will participate in the development of a Competency Determination Proficiency Plan.

Competency Determination Proficiency Plan

If, by the start of grade 11, a student has not yet earned the CD, a Competency Determination Proficiency Plan (CDPP) will be developed with the student.

- The CDPP will outline the areas in which the student has met the CD requirements and the areas in which the student has not met the CD requirements and will outline the pathway for the student to earn the CD.
- The CDPP criteria for earning the CD may include successfully completing performance tasks in the areas of unsatisfactory demonstration of core skills, knowledge, and competencies for the discipline any final assessment for a course required for the CD.
- The plan will be reviewed by the Principal, or designee, and shared with the student and the parent/guardian of the student.
- The CDPP will be reviewed periodically for the duration of the

student's attendance at the school until the student earns the CD.

Limited Role of MCAS Results for Competency Determination

Students who have not met the MA Competency Determination requirements through successful completion of MCAS testing through the November 2024 retests may meet the RTCPS Competency Determination through successful completion of MCAS testing on a limited basis.

If, for any student, the school is unable to confirm the transcript record of successful course completion (60 or above) and/or a record of earning a passing score on the final assessment (60 or above) for any courses required for the CD, the student may meet the RTCPS Competency Determination through meeting or exceeding expectations on the MCAS test for high school English Language Arts, high school Mathematics, and/or high school Science/Technology & Engineering.

Appeals and Reviews

If a student has not been awarded a CD, the student has a right to file a written notice of appeal:

- The student and/or the parent/guardian should send, in writing, the appeal of the decision to the Principal.
- Within 20 school days, the Principal will review the appeal, review the student's transcript and any other student records pertinent to the CD, and make a determination regarding the decision on the appeal.
- Following the decision, the Principal, or designee, will schedule an in-person meeting with the student and the parent/guardian to discuss the next steps for the student.
- Within 5 school days of making a determination on the appeal, the Principal will issue a written decision on the appeal along with options for action-steps for the student.

In accordance with the school's policy regarding access to student records, any student, or a parent/guardian of a student, may request a

transcript review at any time by sending a written request to the Principal. The transcript record will be made available for review within two days of the request.