

COMPETENCY DETERMINATION FOR GRADUATION FROM HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and the educational standards established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), all students graduating from Hadley Public Schools must fulfill both the local graduation requirements and the competency determination requirements set forth by the Hadley School Committee. These requirements are designed to ensure that students meet rigorous academic standards and are prepared for post-secondary education, career opportunities, and civic life.

Graduation requirements specific to each graduating class are detailed in the *Hopkins Academy Program of Studies* and include successful completion of a prescribed number of credits across various disciplines. In addition to these credit requirements, students must demonstrate competency in key academic areas as outlined below:

1. **Core Academic Competencies:**

To meet the competency determination, students must achieve a grade of **C- or better** in the following foundational courses:

- Algebra I (must be taken in high school)
- Geometry (must be taken in high school)
- English 9
- English 10

2. **Science Requirement:**

To demonstrate competency in the sciences, students must achieve a grade of C- or better in at least one of the following core science courses:

- Biology
- Physics

3. Any student who does not achieve a C- or better will be on an EPP and need to pass (**D- or better**) the following:

- ELA- two junior/senior core English courses
- Math- two junior/senior core math courses
- Science- chemistry and one science elective
- Any transfer students will have their transcript reviewed and a plan for meeting the Hopkins CD will be identified per individual student.

These competency requirements are grounded in Massachusetts' legal mandate that all public school students achieve proficiency in key academic subjects as a condition of receiving a high school diploma. The Hadley School Committee has established these standards to align with

statewide educational goals while ensuring that all graduates possess the critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills necessary for success beyond high school.

It is the responsibility of the Hadley Public Schools to provide students with access to high-quality instructional resources and supports to enable them to meet these academic standards. Students and their families are encouraged to consult with school counselors and review the Hopkins Academy Program of Studies for detailed guidance on course selection and academic planning to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Adopted By:
Hadley School Committee: March 24, 2025

Approved: March 24, 2025