

# In Pursuit of Equity Accountability and Success: Latino Students in MA Schools

Commissioner Pedro Martinez, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

January 22, 2026

# Context

## The Challenge

- In 2024, Massachusetts voters passed Ballot Question 2, removing MCAS as a graduation requirement.

## The Opportunity

- What does it mean to graduate from a high school in Massachusetts? How can we have a rigorous, uniform, and equitable graduation requirement that reflects our shared commitment to preparing all students for college, career, and civic life?

# Graduation Council Overview

- Governor Healey established the Statewide Graduation Council through Executive Order 639 to seize this opportunity.
- The Council's charge is to study and make recommendations on a new statewide graduation requirement, including but not limited to the role of assessment, the potential for differentiated pathways to earning the competency determination, and the completion of additional experiences that demonstrate civic, college, and career readiness.

# Graduation Council Process Timeline

Spring  
2025

Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Activities

September  
2025

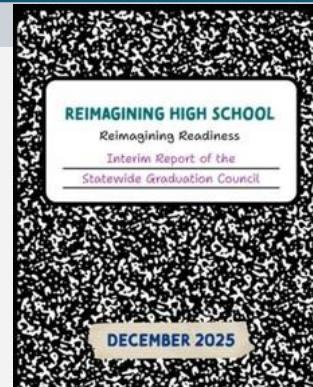
Vision of a  
Massachusetts  
Graduate  
Released

December  
2025

Interim Report  
Delivered to  
Governor and  
Legislature

June 2026

Final Report  
Delivered to  
Governor and  
Legislature



# Vision of a Massachusetts Graduate

## Thinkers:

- Academically Prepared
- Creative Problem-Solvers

## Contributors:

- Self-Aware Navigators
- Intentional Collaborators

## Leaders:

- Responsible Decision-Makers
- Effective Communicators



# A Comprehensive Framework



# Key Considerations

## Strong Foundations

- Expanded flexibility in MassCore
- Alternatives for certain student populations
- Integration of MassCore and other existing pathways
- Timelines and waivers

## Proven Skills

- Determination of courses with EOC assessments
- Role of EOC assessments in graduation
- Equitable pathways for assessing mastery
- Assessment landscape
- Role of capstones and portfolios in graduation

## Bright Futures

- Clarity and consistency of process and requirements for plan
- Diversity of paths in MyCAP
- FAFSA/MASFA opt-out process
- Mechanism for developing financial literacy
- Seal selection and logistics