

## **Healey-Driscoll Administration's Statewide K-12 Graduation Council Interim Report Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### Overall

#### **When will these recommendations impact students?**

An implementation timeline will be determined through thoughtful and broad-based stakeholder engagement. Different components will likely be phased in over a set period of time.

#### **Will this cost districts money to implement?**

The Graduation Council will continue to meet and assess costs and state resources that may be needed to implement these recommendations.

#### **Do these recommendations require legislation?**

Some of these recommendations do require that state legislation be filed. The administration is assessing the best way to approach implementation.

#### **Are these recommendations finalized?**

The interim report finalizes the framework for new high school graduation requirements in Massachusetts. There are details that still need to be worked out with the Council, educators, parents, and stakeholders. These include the design details of end of course assessments, implementation timelines, etc. Now that the framework is completed, the Council will get to work on more specific details and the implementation plan.

### End of Course Assessments (EOCs)

#### **Will there be both the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS and EOCs at the same time?**

We intend for students to never take the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS and EOCs at the same time. The goal is to phase out the 10<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS, in favor of EOCs.

#### **Is an end of course assessment a high stakes test, like the MCAS?**

No. Failure to pass an end of course assessment alone will not prevent a student from getting a diploma.

#### **Will students need to pass EOCs in order to graduate?**

No. Students will not be required to pass EOCs to earn a diploma. Students will be required to meet the obligations laid out in the framework in order to graduate (e.g., set program of studies, academic and career graduate plan, financial literacy). EOCs will also be a more targeted approach to assessment than our current high school MCAS.

#### **Will the EOCs “count” for something, such as a student's grade?**

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Students will not be required to pass EOCs to earn a diploma. The weight and role of EOCs, as one component of a comprehensive system that validates a student's readiness to graduate, will need to be further reviewed and discussed with stakeholders before anything is finalized.

**What makes the proposed framework different from current graduation requirements?**

Right now, Massachusetts lacks a uniform statewide standard for graduating high school. This framework will not only provide a uniform set of standards that each high school student and school district will need to follow in order to earn/award a diploma. It will also ensure that Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to offer a comprehensive statewide set of student-focused diploma requirements that are rigorous and engaging, aimed at providing students with a full and rich array of options post-graduation.