

December 16, 2024
Instruction & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

A meeting of the Instruction & Curriculum Subcommittee of the Westfield School Committee was held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm. The meeting was held in room 315 located at City Hall, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA and available via Zoom meeting notice. Subcommittee members present by roll call were: Jeffrey Gunther and Tim O'Connor. Additional, School Committee members present: Kathleen Hillman, Mike Tirrell (5:27pm) and Bo Sullivan (5:41 pm).

Jeffrey Gunther called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

1. Public participation, excluding personnel: none
2. Graduation Data (MassCore completion, course enrollment, graduation rates)
Susan Dargie and Christine Shea reviewed the following: graduation requirements at Westfield High School and Westfield Technical Academy, MassCore, MassCore Completion Frameworks, and MCAS Law Impact. (attached)

3. Proposed changes to the graduation requirements for Westfield High School and Westfield Technical Academy

Graduation requirements were reviewed for Westfield High and Westfield Technical Academy.

Current graduation requirements are:

Westfield High School: 22 credits

Westfield Technical Academy: 32 credits

Proposed increases to graduation requirements:

Phase 1 Westfield High increases: Math 4 credits, Health 1 credit, Electives 4 credits

Phase 2 Westfield High increase: Computer Science .5 credit

Phase 3 Westfield High increase: 2 World Language credits

Phase 2 Westfield Technical Academy increase: Science 3 credits

4. Physical Education exemption at Westfield High School
Stephanie Biza shared information regarding the sports exemption at Westfield High School and proposed elimination of it. (attached)
5. Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (CHPE) Curriculum Frameworks update
Information from the 2024-2025 Curriculum Committee was reviewed (CHPE frameworks, curriculum renewal process, and current focus).

At 5:59 pm Tim O'Connor moved, Jeffrey Gunther seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Jeffrey Gunther, Chair
Instruction & Curriculum Subcommittee

A report on this meeting given to the school committee at the December 16, 2024 meeting.
Approved by school committee members at the _____ School Committee meeting.

Jeffrey Gunther, Chair
Instruction & Curriculum Subcommittee

WPS Graduation Requirements

Westfield High
School

Westfield Technical
Academy

Agenda

1

Current Graduation Requirements

2

MassCore Framework

3

MCAS Law Impact

4

Sport Exemption to meet PE requirement

5

Comprehensive Health and PE Curriculum Committee

WHS Graduation Requirements

- The successful completion of Automated External Defibrillator/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (AED/CPR) Awareness Training as part of Physical Education / Health classes.
- AP Macroeconomics can be used to meet the Financial Literacy requirement.
- Arts includes Art, Culinary Arts, Music, and Technology courses
- Students must meet the requirements of the MCAS English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, Technology & Engineering Tests.
- A Certificate of Attainment will be issued to students who complete all local requirements, but have not yet earned an MCAS competency determination.

Subject	Credits
English	4
Social Studies	3
Science	3
Math	3
Health	0.5
Physical Education	2
Financial Literacy	0.5
Arts	1
Electives	5
Total Credits	22

WTA Graduation Requirements

- The successful completion of Automated External Defibrillator/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (AED/CPR) Awareness Training as part of Allied Health Exploratory.
- Waivers for academic requirements can only be approved by school principal.
- Students must meet the requirements of the MCAS English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, Technology & Engineering Tests.
- A Certificate of Attainment will be issued to students who complete all local requirements, but have not yet earned an MCAS competency determination.

Subject	Credits
English	4
Math	4
Social Studies	2.5
Science	2.5
Health / Physical Education	1
Related / Electives	2
Career Technical Education	16
Total Credits	32

Proposed Graduation Requirements



Phase 2 WHS		Credits
Subject	Computer Science*	0.5
Phase 2 WTA		
Subject	Science	3 ▾
Phase 3 WHS		Credits
Subject	World Language*	2

*requires additional staff

Phase 1 WHS		Credits
Subject	English	4
	Social Studies	3
	Science	3
	Math*	4
	Health*	1
	Physical Education	2
	Financial Literacy	0.5
	Arts	1
	Electives	4

MCAS Law

Impact on requirements

...by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests.

- DESE is no longer able to provide competency determination (CD) for students that have not passed MCAS.
- Class of 2025 is the priority.
- DESE will continue to offer retests, but only specific students are eligible.
- School Committee has the authority to determine local graduation requirements.
- Retroactive CDs may be issued by the district if former students can prove that they have met the requirements other than a passing score on MCAS.

MassCore

Subject	Units
English Language Arts	4
Math	4
Science (Lab-based)	3
History and Social Science	3
World Language	2
Physical Education	as req. by law
Arts	1
Add'l Core Courses	5



MassCore is a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations. Adopted 2007; Amended 2018

MassCore Completion

2019 - 2023

MassCore Completion Rate	2019	2022	2023
Westfield	76%	76%	78%
Agawam	85%	85%	88%
Chicopee	33%	33%	35%
Longmeadow	58%	52%	58%
Pittsfield	74%	79%	75%
Southwick	81%	79%	83%
Springfield	100%	100%	100%
West Springfield	64%	71%	66%

MassCore Completion Rate	2019	2022	2023
WHS	68%	67%	64%
WTA	100%	100%	100%

****Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of World Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.**

2 PE Credit Requirement

Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 71, Section 3 requires physical education (PE) to be taught in all public schools and commonwealth charter schools for all students in all grades.

Sports Exemption for PE

Original Expectations:

Senior student-athletes who were in good academic standing (passing ALL classes) were able to receive a sport exemption to have a full academic course load. NO study halls were allowed.

Current Expectations:

Junior or Senior student-athletes who participate at any level of athletics (to include non-MIAA sanctioned activities). May have study halls and there are no academic parameters.

2024 - 2025 Curriculum
Committee

Health and PE

- 2023 CHPE Frameworks
- 9 Member Committee
- Curriculum Renewal Process
 - Learn and Prepare
 - Investigate and Select
 - Launch
 - Implement and Monitor
- Current Focus
 - Vision and Priorities
 - High Quality Instructional Materials

Westfield's Vision of Excellent Physical Education Instruction



Westfield's Vision of Excellent Health Instruction

Elimination of Sport Exemption

Evolution of Sport Exemption at WHS

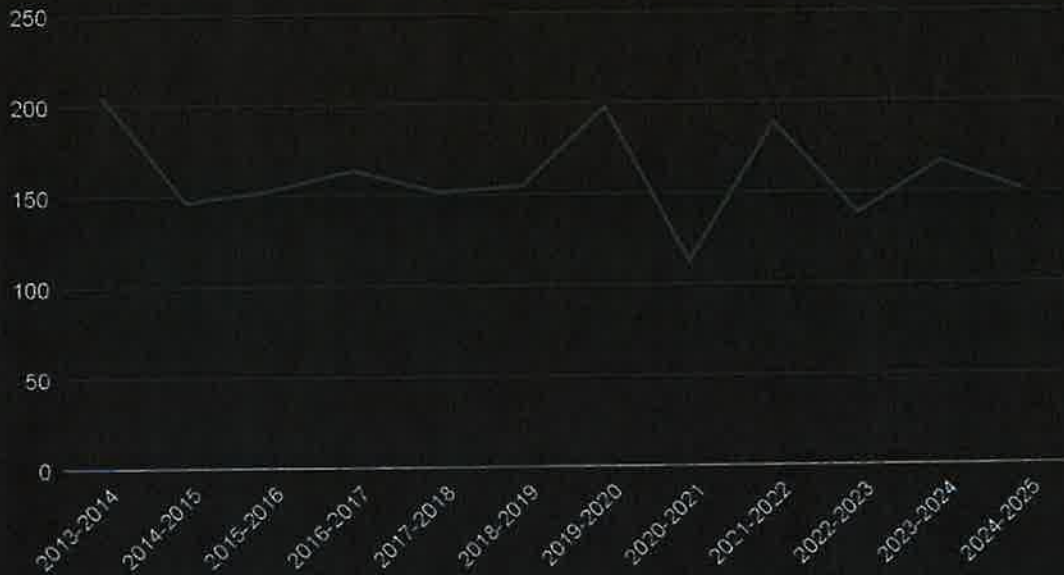
Original Expectations:

Senior student-athletes who were in good academic standing (passing ALL classes) were able to receive a sport exemption to have a full academic course load. NO study halls were allowed.

Current Expectations:

Junior or Senior student-athletes who participate at any level of athletics (to include non-MIAA sanctioned activities). May have study halls and there are no academic parameters.

Sport Exemption Data



Graduation Requirement Language

Physical Education

As required by law

Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students (M.G.L. c.71 §3).

Updated 3/1/2023

Westfield High School Graduation Requirements for a Diploma

CREDITS

Area of Study	WHS Credits
English Language Arts	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
History and Social Science	3
Arts	1
Physical Education	2

Health	½
Financial Literacy	½
Electives	5
Total Credits	22

Disparity between Sports and Physical Education

- Students participating in athletics are focused on single concepts.
- Physical Education focuses on overall content to include, but not limited to, lifetime activities, Fitness/wellness-based activities, and social-emotional learning.
 - See current course offering descriptions on slides 5-9
 - The slides outline progressive concepts throughout the required four (4) years of Physical Education
 - Additionally, Physical Education classes build upon the Comprehensive Health Frameworks by reinforcing standards such as, but not limited to, 12.1 PF Physical Activity & Fitness, 12.2 MH Mental Health (concepts 1, 5, 6), 12.2PF Physical Activity & Fitness (concepts 1, 2 5), and Healthy Relationships

PE1000 Physical Education

½ PE Credit

Grade 9

This course is a traditional Physical Education program focusing on fitness, swimming, basic water safety, team sports, and the completion of a CPR/AED introductory course. Emphasis will be placed on applying physical education principles to life experiences as well as active participation, effort, and the demonstration of skill. It is designed to introduce the student to a variety of activities that will be developed in depth during their junior and senior year.

PE2000 Physical Education 2

½ PE Credit

Grade 10

The Sophomore Adventure Education program is a non-traditional program based on outdoor educational strategies and activities. It is designed to develop concepts of group dynamics through an activities-based course of study. Students will engage in reflective exercises to evaluate personal strengths and limitations. The Sophomore Physical Education program is a traditional program scheduled in two or three week units of dance, team handball, and volleyball. Emphasis is placed on active participation, effort, conduct and demonstration of content knowledge.

Physical Education options for Junior and Senior students

PE3000 Physical Education 3/4

½ PE Credit

Grade 11-12

The Junior/Senior Physical Education curriculum is a program of team and lifetime activities. Emphasis will be placed on active participation, effort, and the demonstration of strategies and concepts used in a variety of sports, games, and activities. PE5100

Physical Education options for Junior and Senior students

**Physical Education 4 Life
Credit**

½ PE

Grades 11-12

The Physical Education 4 Life is designed for students interested in a non-traditional Physical Education class. A large percentage is classroom-based, with limited participation in lifetime activities. Throughout the class, students will explore wellness topics such as stress management, nutrition, individual fitness plans, and CPR/AED certification.

Physical Education options for Junior and Senior students cont.

PE3600 Competitive Physical Education

½ PE Credit

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of PE1000 and PE2000
This course supports the Junior/Senior Physical Education curriculum. It is a program of team and lifetime activities and an emphasis will be placed on rigorous, competitive participation, dynamic effort, and the demonstration of strategic, highly-skilled play. Through a variety of sports, games, and activities, the student will demonstrate proficiency in a variety of concepts and skills. This program requires the application of all concepts introduced in previous years.

Physical Education options for Junior and Senior students cont.

PE5000 Physical Education Student Leader

½ PE Credit

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of PE1000 and PE2000 and approval through application process PE Student Leaders are an integral part of the freshman and sophomore PE curriculum.

Juniors and seniors may apply to this selective program. A Student Leader must be a role model in PE and within the school community. Responsibilities include, but may not be limited to, the following: be on time to all classes, dress for all PE classes, set an example for the students, be available for set-up and take down of equipment, assist the instructor, reach out to all students, and be sensitive to the differences in the classes. Student Leader Applications are available in the School Counseling Office.

QUESTIONS

