

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: Graduation Proposal

Date: August 22, 2023

Dept: FHS

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

Graduation Proposal

I recommend approval of the 2023-24 FHS Graduation date change as detailed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

Vote Tabulator

C. Bernstein: Y / N D. McNeill: Y / N

D. Callaghan: Y / N M. Whitmore: Y / N

Al Charles: Y / N D Spencer: Y / N

E Stokes: Y / N Action: _____



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

JOSHUA HANNA, PRINCIPAL

RYAN AUGUSTA, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT SERVICES
CATHERINE KLEIN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT SERVICES
JENNIFER SANTOSUOSSO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT SERVICES
MARIA WEBER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT SERVICES

Dear Superintendent Giguere,

I'm respectfully requesting to schedule the Franklin High School Class of 2024 graduation on Friday, May 31, 2024. Traditionally, Franklin High School graduations were held on the first Friday in June, which is June 7, 2024. Our goal is to schedule graduation for the first weekend in June, which I understand is a change in practice and interpretation. The request is made for the following reasons.

1. [Senior Week](#) historically follows Memorial Day weekend, which takes place on Monday, May 27, 2024, ending with graduation on that Friday. This allows the cadence of the senior week of events to stay in the same order, which includes multiple days of rehearsals. We also avoid an additional week of time lapse before the graduation ceremony. This is helpful for planning and staffing the events leading up to and including Senior Week and mitigating positional issues from occurring the week before graduation.
2. Bio MCAS is scheduled to be taken on June 4 and June 5, 2024. If graduation stays on June 7, 2024, this would be during our typical Senior Week Events/Graduation Rehearsal. Attempting to conduct and administer both events during the same week thoughtfully is doable but certainly not optimal.
3. Many area High Schools are graduating that weekend.
 - o 5/30 Bishop Feehan
 - o 5/31 Hopkinton, Blackstone Millville Regional, Nipmuc
 - o 6/1 Randolph, Avon, Uxbridge, Hopedale
 - o 6/2 Walpole, Mansfield, Milton, Milford, Needham
4. We are within the guidelines of what the State of Massachusetts allows. If we have graduation on 5/31/24, we would have 10 school days before the regularly scheduled closing date of the school on 6/14/24.
 - As a matter of policy, the Board encourages school districts to schedule high school graduation as close as possible to the scheduled closing date of the high school to maximize the learning time offered to graduating seniors and minimize the disruption of instruction provided to other students.
 - Notwithstanding the minimum school year requirements set forth in 603 CMR 27.03 and 27.04(2), at the discretion of the school committee, the scheduled school year for the graduating senior class of a high school or vocational/technical school may conclude. The school graduation may be held up to 12 school days before the regularly scheduled closing date of that school.
5. The FHS current schedule only allows for one week between graduation and the last day of school w/out snow days (June 7 & June 14, 2023). The additional week would allow more time for a seamless transition to close out the year for grade 9-11, step up days for freshman, and closing out underclassmen awards. This would also allow us to reinstitute the Junior book awards in the additional week gained.

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6. The next time this will occur is in the year 2030.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Hanna