

**Cambridge Public Schools
Policy on Eighth Grade Graduations**

The Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public Schools are committed to having the elementary schools within its school district operate for 180 days as required by the state and to ensuring that all elementary school students are scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time per school year as required by the Massachusetts Department of Education regulations. *See* M.G.L.c. 71, §§1, 4A; 603 C.M.R. 27.03(3) and 603 C.M.R. 27.04(1). Accordingly, consistent with these commitments, it is the policy of the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public School Department that all eighth grade students be required to attend school for 180 days and be scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time per school year. Consistent with this policy, eighth grade graduation exercises shall be scheduled by an elementary school no earlier than the 176th day of school (unless the calendar is altered by snow days) on any date or time of the principal's choice so long as graduations are scheduled in a manner to ensure that eighth grade students attend school for 180 days.

*Adopted by the Cambridge School Committee on March 1, 2005
Finalized policy issued on March 22, 2005*