

SECTION 5

DISTRICT OFFERING CONTINUING EDUCATION

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Continuing Education Policies:

- **No district should hold a CE program 60 days prior and 30 days after the Yankee Dental Congress**

The following information provides district leaders with guidelines on what qualifies for continuing education and important District record-keeping requirements.

CE Requirements to Maintain Licensure

All dental professionals licensed in Massachusetts are required to complete continuing education units (CEUs) to fulfill state license renewal requirements. This includes dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. CEUs **may not** be carried over from one renewal cycle to the next. A licensee shall complete continuing education as a condition precedent to the biennial renewal of a license in the following areas:

Category	# of CEUs	Cycle	Requirement
Dentist	40	4/1/2026 - 3/31/2028 (even years)	*CDC Guidelines, **CPR/AED or BLS and ***Pain Management
Dental Hygienist	20	4/1/2025 - 3/31/2027 (odd years)	*CDC Guidelines and ** CPR/AED or BLS
Dental Assistant	12	11/1/2025 - 10/31/2027 (odd years)	*CDC Guidelines and **CPR/AED or BLS

Required continuing education for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants includes:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines
- Continuous certification in CPR/AED or BLS, or, if the licensee has an anesthesia permit issued pursuant to 234 CMR 6.00: Administration of Anesthesia and Sedation, then the licensee must maintain continuous certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support or Pediatric Advanced Life Support commensurate with the level of anesthesia permit obtained.
- A *dentist* who holds a Massachusetts Controlled Substance registration, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration, or who otherwise prescribes within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 94C, shall complete training required pursuant to M.G.L. c. 94C, § 18(e) as a condition precedent to renewing a license.

What Qualifies for Continuing Education Credit?

- Continuing education activities must have significant intellectual or practical content that deals primarily with matters directly related to the practice of dentistry or dental auxiliary functions, or with the professional responsibilities or ethical obligations of the profession.
- Courses **not acceptable** for fulfilling the CE requirement include, but are not limited to, personal financial planning or retirement planning.

How Many Credits Can a District Award a Participant?

- One continuing education (CE) has a minimum of 50 minutes of education. Lecture, hands-on, or workshop, 50 minutes = 1 CE.

Live vs. On-Demand Webinars

- For a live webinar to secure CE, there must be capability for a live question-and-answer session between the speaker(s) and attendees during the session.
- For an on-demand webinar to secure CE, there must be a quiz at the end of the course to test the participants' understanding of the materials discussed.

CE Requirements. All courses must:

- Have a written course description
- Be conducted by an instructor qualified by education or experience
- Provide a certificate of attendance and course description for attendees, which must include:
 - The name and address of the sponsor (district)
 - The name, address, and license number of the licensee
 - A brief statement on the subject matter
 - The number of lectures, clinical, or laboratory participation contact hours
 - An indication of whether the course fulfills CEU requirements for dentists, dental hygienists, or dental assistants
 - The date and location of the program
 - Verification by the sponsor (District) that the licensee completed the program

District Record-Keeping Requirements

Your district must keep the following records for each CE program for a period of **five years** (if the district falls under MDS/CERP approval, records must be kept for **six years**) and should be furnished to the Board of Registration in Dentistry (BORID) upon request:

1. Course description
2. Faculty
3. Date of the course
4. Location of the course
5. Number of contact hours
6. Roster of attendees



Determine where the District records are going to be maintained in the District and who has been responsible in the past for maintaining the records.

CERP Providers: Course evaluation provisions must be made for evaluation of the participant's attainment of the course objectives. This is encouraged for all districts.

Virtual CE Process

A district may offer a virtual CE program. If it chooses to do so, the district, except for a district with a management services contract, is responsible for managing the entire process. Districts should email attendees who have satisfied the 50-minute-per-CE requirement, along with a CE verification of participation form, participation form upon completion of the course. The district is also responsible for record-keeping, as mentioned above.

Record-Keeping Option for Districts

Districts are required to keep records for all CE programs. The MDS has learned from district leaders that this is a challenging requirement, given that this responsibility often shifts from leader to leader each year. To help ensure districts can use this process, as these are important regulations, the MDS offers a cloud-based record-keeping system for districts to maintain their records. Each district uploads its documents. Contact your district liaison for additional information and directions on how to upload your district files. Districts may also choose to file their minutes, bylaws, and other governance materials in this cloud filing system.

District Schedule

Avoid scheduling CE courses on major holidays.

The MDS CE Registry

This free benefit for members helps them track their continuing education: <https://hub.massdental.org/s/my-ceus>

*Note: Districts must still maintain records of the courses they provide.



Your District schedule should be posted on your District web page. Please refer to the web posting instructions in Section 6 of the District Manual. Email districts@massdental.org to request a change to your webpage.

Yankee Quiet Period (December 1 – March 2)

The Yankee Oversight Committee's District Continuing Education Policy

Districts are requested to abstain from scheduling continuing education programs between the first day of December and the last day of February. Specifically, the policy states: ***"No District should hold a CE program 60 days prior and 30 days after the Yankee Dental Congress, in an effort to increase attendance and boost registrations at Yankee."*** Please plan your District schedule accordingly. Should your District choose to hold an event during this period, the MDS will not promote this program online or through email marketing. To help maximize attendance at your District programs during the rest of the year, the MDS will try to avoid scheduling state programs that conflict with your District's calendar. MDS will promote District CE programs scheduled for post-Yankee once Yankee ends.

ADA CERP

Current American Dental Association (ADA) CERP Certified Districts: Berkshire, Boston, Cape Cod, East Middlesex, Merrimack Valley, Metropolitan, Middlesex, North Shore, South Shore, Valley, and Worcester.

ADA CERP: American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program

ADA CERP offers ADA members and the dental community a way to confidently select continuing dental education (CE) while promoting continuous quality improvement in CE. CERP also assists state boards and other organizations with CE requirements to identify providers with policies and practices in place to develop and administer CE with a sound scientific basis in accordance with accepted education and business.

Districts approved through the program are designated as ADA CERP Recognized Providers under the Massachusetts Dental Society umbrella. Only providers that meet the CERP Recognition Standards are granted approval and are authorized to use the ADA CERP logo and recognition statement.

Once approved, providers are held accountable for maintaining those same high standards through periodic reevaluation. Districts must re-apply for CERP approval annually. Each February, the Massachusetts Dental Society is required to submit a list of the districts that have been recognized through the extended Approval Process to the Commission. The approval period for the districts runs from May of that year through June of the following year. The Massachusetts Dental Society is required to provide a sampling of documentation from the districts at our renewal.

MDS Learning

The Massachusetts Dental Society aims to meet the learning needs of all dental professionals by offering a multitude of courses that accommodate all types of learning styles. From face-to-face classes to online instruction, to local in-person opportunities, you're in control of your continuing education. Learn more at <https://www.massdental.org/Learning>.

Preapproved Course Listing for Pain Management for Dentists

1. You can attend a class on pain management for the dentist at Yankee Dental Congress.
2. You can take an online pain management course at <https://www.massdental.org/learning-events/online-learning/>

See next page for upcoming MDS continuing education events! Check the MDS calendar before scheduling events.

Upcoming Fall MDS Continuing Education Events

Yankee Study Club 2026 Sessions

Date/Time	Format	# of CEs	Topic	Speaker
September 2, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM	Zoom Webinar	2	The “Top 10” List for Essential Drugs in the 2026 Emergency Kit	Daniel Pompa, DDS
September 23, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM	Zoom Webinar	2	Three Levels of Compensation: A Practice Owner’s Guide	Craig Vacek, DDS
October 14, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM	Zoom Webinar	2	A Practical Guide: Basic TMJ Management in the Private Practice Setting	Andrew Tonelli, DMD
November 18, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM	Zoom Webinar	2	Simplified Anterior Restorations: Adhesion, Esthetics, and Clinical Success	Amanda Wobido, DDS

MDS Learning Courses Fall 2026

Date/Time	Format	# of CEs	Topic	Speaker
September 18, 2026 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	In-Person	8	MDS BORID Day Package	Full Day
September 18, 2026 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	In-Person	4	MDS BORID Day: CPR Program	Richard Golden, BS, NRP, IC
September 18, 2026 12:30 – 2:30 pm	In-Person	2	MDS BORID Day: Infection Control Program	Speaker TBD
September 18, 2026 3:00 - 5:00 pm	In-Person	2	MDS BORID Day: Pain Management Program	Richard Harold, DMD, JD

Upcoming Fall MDS Continuing Education Events Cont.

Yankee University Courses 2026

Release Date/Time	Format	# of CEs	Topic	Speaker
September 10, 2026 12:00 PM	On-Demand Webinar	1	Parts, Chemistry & Compatibility in Dental Hygiene	Lynn Pencek, RDH
October 8, 2026 12:00 PM	On-Demand Webinar	1	Art Meets Technology: Digital Esthetics in Modern Dentistry	Volodymyr Kachmar, DM

**Yankee Dental Congress 2027 Registration Opens
Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, at 12:00 PM!**