

TITLE I CALENDAR



Connecting Home and School

Mary E. Grassi, Title I Coordinator: 617-349-6490

Debbie Bonilla, Family Liaison: 617-349-6492

MCAS THE NEXT GENERATION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is it being called the “next generation”?

This new MCAS version will have a stronger alignment to the updated MA Curriculum Frameworks and will be computer based. State learning expectations have been revised and testing needs to reflect those changes. As far as technology, many students are currently taking advantage of it both in and out of school. New types of test questions will assess students’ ability to think critically and will help measure readiness for success in college or a career after high school.

What is meant by a “gradual transition”?

A gradual transition for “phasing in” computer based testing will give districts an opportunity to make the transition more manageable for both schools and district staff. In 2017, Computer Based Testing (CBT) is required for students in Grades 4 and 8 in ELA and Math and optional for Grades 3, 5, 6 and 7. The goal is to have all grades using CBT by 2019. Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) tests at Grades 5, 8, and high school will remain paper-based tests.

How many testing sessions are scheduled?

ELA: Grades 3-5 (3 sessions); Grades 6-8 (2 sessions)
Mathematics: Grades 3-8 (2 sessions)
Recommended time is approximately 60 minutes but all 2017 MCAS test sessions are untimed; however, no test session may extend beyond length of regular school day and individual test sessions must be completed on the same day on which it begins.

What types of items will be on the MCAS?

The 2017 MCAS will be a combination of some of the “old” MCAS items as well as some newly developed ones. In addition some PARCC items will also be included.
ELA and Mathematics knowledge will be evaluated using a variety of question types: multiple choice, short response, short answer, open response,

narrative and text based essays and technology enhanced (on the computer-based test only).
Passages from literary and informational texts will assess reading comprehension and writing skills.
Writing at all grades will be embedded within the ELA test.
(Prior MCAS in Grades 4, 7 and 10 had a separate composition task).

What accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities and ELL students?

Paper –based testing will be available for students with disabilities who require a paper and pencil test as well as for new ELL students unfamiliar with computers.
In addition, students with disabilities will continue to follow approved accommodations in their IEPs and 504 plans. MCAS Alternate Assessment will continue for students with severe disabilities.
ELL students will also be eligible for test accommodations including text to speech/human reader and/or a scribe for math and STE.

What kinds of preparation will students have prior to taking the Next Generation MCAS?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will post practice tests and student tutorials on their website for schools to practice with students. The tutorials will help familiarize students with the various items and tools of CBT.

How will families be informed about test results?

DESE will provide families with the same type of reports as in previous testing cycles. Students will receive a scaled score and an achievement level for each test that is taken.

For additional information:

www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/nextgen/
Office of Student Assessment Services
mcas@doe.mass.edu