

TITLE I CALENDAR

Connecting Home and School



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MCAS testing will begin soon. The new version of MCAS, which began last year, is aligned to the 2017 Massachusetts English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Curriculum Frameworks. Question types will assess students' ability to think critically and will help measure readiness for success in college or a career after high school.

There are two sessions each in ELA and Math. Each test will include both common and matrix questions. (Common questions count toward a student's score while matrix questions (field-test) do not count toward a student's score.

Question types are similar in both tests. Both include **multiple choice** (one correct answer from several options); **multiple select** (select more than one correct answer); **technology enhanced** (on the computer-based test only) and **short/constructed response** (writing an explanation). Additional ELA questions are **Narrative and Text-Based Essays** (writing a response to text). **Short Answer/Fill in the Blank** type questions are found on the math test. Grades 5 and 8 will also take the Science and Technology/Engineering Tests (STE).

Grade 10 students will continue to use the 2018 "legacy tests" in both ELA and Math which remain unchanged from previous years. These tests will be aligned to the 2011 Curriculum Frameworks.

The 1993 Massachusetts Education Reform Law requires that all students in the state who are educated with public funds participate in the statewide assessment program (MCAS). Parents that decide not to have their children participate in the mandatory testing can also affect the district's performance in state accountability ratings based on a low participation rate.

Here are a few things families should do before and during the testing cycle:

- Have your child get a good night's rest prior to/throughout the testing period (No one can concentrate when they are tired);
- Make sure they have a healthy breakfast and get to school on time (Tests may be given first thing in the morning before students get tired);
- Pack a healthy snack, such as fruit for your child (This gives them a boost of energy before beginning a testing session);
- Do not give them a medication they do not take regularly (Children can react to a new medication by becoming sleepy or restless);
- Talk to your child about these tests (By giving as much information as possible about the tests, you relieve "test anxiety");
- Remind your child to listen and follow test instructions very carefully;
- Compliment them for trying hard every day of the testing period.

TESTING SCHEDULE

GRADE(s)	TEST	DATES
3-8	ELA	April 2- May 4
3-8	MATH	April 3- May 25
5 & 8	STE	April 4- May 25
10	ELA (composition)	March 27
10	ELA (comprehension)	March 28
10	MATH	May 23-24
9-12	STE	June 6-7

For more information on MCAS, MA Standards and/ or sample questions visit the DESE website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents