

MCAS Frequently Asked Questions

What is MCAS?

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is the name of the tests that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education administers in public schools throughout the state.

What does MCAS assess?

In Massachusetts, the state sets high standards for what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level and in each subject, and state assessments help show whether learning is happening. Test results can help identify areas where students have mastered a subject, where students need more help, and where educators might need to adjust their lesson plans, materials, or approach in order for students to meet the standards found in the [Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks](#).

How long does the MCAS test usually take students to complete?

The following are the recommended testing times for administering MCAS in grades 5-8:

ELA: 2 to 2.5 hours per session

Math: 1.5 hours per session

Science: 1 to 1.5 hours per session

Students will complete two sessions per test and will complete one session per day.

Students can have until the end of the school day if they need it.

Do students stay back if they do not “pass” this test?

No. MCAS does not determine whether a student repeats a grade. Students will receive a specific score for each test that they take and the tests are not graded as pass/fail.

How is the data gained from this assessment used?

We use the data at the school level to look at curriculum changes that may be needed, to help plan professional development, and identify students who may need extra help or math/ELA/STE interventions during their WIN (2022-2023 school year). As well as remediation and course placement for 8th graders entering the high school. At the state level, the data is used to identify schools that may be struggling, so they can provide support to those schools.

Do students take MCAS on a computer?

Yes. Students will take MCAS on the Chromebooks they use routinely during school and they are very comfortable utilizing this technology.

When will my child take MCAS?

April 1: Grade 8 ELA S1

April 8: Grade 8 ELA S2

April 5: Grade 7 ELA S1

April 12: Grade 7 ELA S2

April 6: Grade 6 ELA S1

April 13: Grade 6 ELA S2

April 7: Grade 5 ELA S1

April 14: Grade 5 ELA S2

May 3: Grade 8 Math S1

May 10: Grade 8 Math S2

May 4: Grade 7 Math S1

May 11: Grade 7 Math S2

May 5: Grade 6 Math S1

May 12: Grade 6 Math S2

May 6: Grade 5 Math S1

May 13: Grade 5 Math S2

May 17: Grade 8 STE S1

May 19: Grade 8 STE S2

May 18: Grade 5 STE S1

May 20: Grade 5 STE S2

What happens if my child is absent on the day they are scheduled to take MCAS?

They will be scheduled for a makeup date. Make-up dates: April 26th - 28th ELA,
May 24th - 27th Math/STE.

Should my child study for these tests? What should my child do to prepare for MCAS?

These tests are designed to assess many standards covered over the course of the school year, so no studying is needed or practical for these tests. Students will take practice tests and a tutorial the state provides at school prior to taking MCAS. We recommend that students get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast the morning of the tests. Practice tests are available [here](#).

Is this test something to worry about?

No. These tests provide schools with information to help students moving forward. MCAS tests at the elementary and middle levels are not high stakes and are not attached to promotion to the next grade or graduation.

When will I know how my child did on MCAS?

Results are typically distributed to parents during the Fall of the following school year.

What if my question was not included in this FAQ?

Please email aandrade@drregional.org or ayounger@drregional.org