

Next-Generation MCAS High School Testing Workgroup

Presentation to the BESE
Assessment Oversight Committee

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION



High School Testing Workgroup

PURPOSE

The High School Testing Workgroup will address a number of policy issues relating to the ELA, mathematics, and science tests to be administered in grades 9-12; it will also address issues related to history and social science high school testing. These issues include the specific tests to be offered; whether certain tests will be mandatory or optional; the sequence of tests required for the competency determination beginning with the class of 2020; and the schedule for transitioning from the current high school MCAS tests.



Workgroup process and deliverables

Vision and Claims	Technical Specifications	
<p>Desired Claims of Graduates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Level Descriptors • CD and/or CCR • Performance <p>Program Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data every year (number of tests) • Testing time vs. usefulness of info/data • Adams/Koplick awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD and/or test(s) (one or two tests or one or two scores) (online vs. paper) • Performance-based assessment • Number of tests • Transition requirements • Retest opportunities 	RFR Needs
<p>Fairness and Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition timing • Prior exposure • Number of retest opportunities • Legal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance-level descriptors • Standard setting • CD and/or CCR score levels • Transition requirements • Adams/Koplick awards 	Longer-Term Recommendations

ESE and DHE staff participating in workgroup sessions

- ★ **Brooke Clenchy**, Senior Associate Commissioner
- ★ **Jake Foster**, Director of STEM
- ★ **Jass Stewart**, Special Assistant to the Senior Associate Commissioner

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- ★ **Anne Marie Condike**, Math PD and Targeted Assistance Specialist
 - ★ **Beth Niedzwiecki**, ELA Assessment Specialist
 - ★ **Bob Lee**, Chief MCAS Analyst
 - ★ **Brendan Harmon**, Science Test Developer
 - ★ **Dave Buchanan**, Assistant Director of Literacy and Humanities
 - ★ **Haley Freeman**, Assistant Director of Test Development
 - ★ **Jen O'Toole**, English Language Arts Test Development Specialist
 - ★ **Jim Verdolino**, Math Test Development Specialist
 - ★ **Jodie Zalk**, Test Administration Coordinator
 - ★ **Katie Bowler**, Science Assessment Manager
 - ★ **Keith Westrich**, Associate Commissioner
 - ★ **Lucy Wall**, Assistant General Counsel
 - ★ **Matthew Deninger**, Planning and Implementation Coordinator
 - ★ **Maureen LaCroix**, Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner
 - ★ **Michol Stapel**, Associate Commissioner
 - ★ **Nina Schlikin**, Director of Literacy and Humanities
 - ★ **Nyal Fuentes**, College and Career Readiness Specialist
 - ★ **Susan Lane**, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner of Higher Education



Meeting schedule and key themes

- ★ Thursday, January 14
 - ★ **Internal planning session #1**
- ★ Wednesday, January 20
 - ★ **Internal planning session #2**
- ★ Thursday, January 28
 - ★ **Workgroup session #1: Orientation and context**
- ★ Friday, February 5
 - ★ **Workgroup session #2: Focus on what should be**
- ★ Wednesday, February 10
 - ★ **Workgroup session #3: Transition and equity**
- ★ Thursday, February 18
 - ★ **Workgroup session #4: HS to college transitions**
- ★ Future meetings to refine initial recommendations are likely



Composition of the 35 workgroup members

Subject	ELA	10
	Math	6
	STE	10
	History	4
	Other (ELLs, SPED, testing)	5
Profession	Teacher	15
	Principal/Depart Head	16
	Superintendent/Assist Super	4
Region	Eastern	27
	Central/Western	8
District/ School Type	Urban	7
	Suburb/Rural	18
	Charter	3
	Regional/Votec	3
	Higher Education	4



Option 1: Keeping current MCAS components & adding tests

	9th	10 th	11th	12th
ELA	Diagnostic assessment (optional) 1 for math; 1 for ELA	CD assessment (mandatory) ELA: 10 th grade standards Math: integrated algebra and geometry	CCR assessment* (optional) 1 for math; 1 for ELA (1 opportunity)	CCR assessment* (optional) 1 for math; 1 for ELA (1 opportunity)
Math			CD retests Mid-year and end-of-year (2 opportunities)	CD retests Mid-year and end-of-year (2 opportunities)
Science	End-of-course CD assessment (mandatory) Must take & pass 1 subject area (4 options) February (biology) and June administrations			
			End-of-course CD assessment (4 options) if not achieved CD February (biology) and June administrations	
HSS		US History &/or Civics assessment	(no retakes until part of CD)	(no retakes until part of CD)



Option 2: Keeping grades 9-10 components and simplifying 11-12

	9th	10 th	11th	12 th
ELA	Diagnostic assessment (optional)	CD assessment (mandatory) ELA: 10 th grade standards	CCR assessment* (optional if achieved CD; mandatory if not)	CCR assessment* (optional if achieved CD; mandatory if not)
Math	1 for math; 1 for ELA	Math: integrated algebra and geometry	1 for math; 1 for ELA (2 opportunities) Two scores: for CCR and for CD	1 for math; 1 for ELA (2 opportunities) Two scores: for CCR and for CD
Science	End-of-course CD assessment (mandatory) Must take & pass 1 subject area (4 options) End-of-year only			
			End-of-course CD assessment (4 options) if not achieved CD End-of-year only	
HSS		US History &/or Civics assessment	(no retakes until part of CD)	(no retakes until part of CD)



Option 3: Dynamic-adaptive ELA & math, simplify grades 11-12

	9th	10th	11th	12th
ELA	Math & ELA assessment			
	1 for math, 1 for ELA			
Math	Diagnostic results → CD results → CD and CCR results			
Science	End-of-course CD assessment Must take & pass 1 subject area (4 options) End-of-year only			
			End-of-course CD assessment (4 options) if not achieved CD End-of-year only	
HSS		US History &/or Civics assessment	(no retakes until part of CD)	(no retakes until part of CD)



Next-gen MCAS transition testing recommendations

Class of:	Testing Year						Minimum #of opportunities for students to take next-gen test before CD
	2015 (choice year 1)	2016 (choice year 2)	2017	2018	2019	2020	
2019	Grade 8 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 9 – no test	Grade 10 – legacy	Retests – legacy	Retests – legacy	Retests – legacy	n/a
2020	Grade 7 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 8 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 9 – no test	Grade 10 – legacy test for MCAS students – new test for PARCC students	Retakes or Retests – new	Retakes or Retests – new	2
2021	Grade 6 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 7 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 8 – new test	Grade 9 – mandatory new diagnostic for MCAS students – optional diagnostic for PARCC students	Grade 10 – new test	Retakes or Retests – new	2
2022	Grade 5 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 6 – MCAS – PARCC	Grade 7 – new test	Grade 8 – new test	Grade 9 – Optional diagnostic	Grade 10 – new test	2



Next-gen MCAS transition supports each year through 2017/18

	8th	9th	10th	11th
Student	<p>Administration of grade 8 MCAS operational test with PARCC-like items</p> <p>Administration of grade 8 PARCC operational PBT/CBT tests</p> <p>Use of selected grade 8-level PARCC PBT/CBT practice test items</p>	<p>Use of selected grade 9-level PARCC PBT/CBT practice test items</p> <p>Mandatory use of MCAS 2.0 9th-grade diagnostic test</p> <p>Option for high-achieving 9th graders to take grade 10 MCAS 2.0 test (exempt from diagnostic test)</p>	<p>Use of selected grade 10-level PARCC PBT/CBT practice test items</p> <p>Use of selected grade 10-level MCAS 2.0 PBT/CBT practice test items</p> <p>Administration of MCAS 2.0 operational tests (paper or computer)</p>	<p>Use of MCAS 2.0 CCR test for CD retest opportunities and possible achievement of CCR designation</p> <p>(Or, use of MCAS 2.0 CD retests)</p>
Educator	<p>State/local grade 8 PARCC CBT practice test sessions</p> <p>Local use of online grade 8 PARCC PBT/CBT sample test items</p> <p>State/local PD on released items and student work</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 8 ELA, math, and STE standards/ instructional shifts</p>	<p>State/local grade 9 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 CBT practice test sessions</p> <p>Local use of online grade 9 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 PBT/CBT sample test items</p> <p>State/local PD on released items and student work</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 9 ELA, math, and STE standards/ instructional shifts</p>	<p>State/local grade 10 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 CBT practice test sessions</p> <p>Local use of online grade 10 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 PBT/CBT sample test items</p> <p>State/local PD on released items and student work</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 10 MCAS 2.0 test format/design and blueprints</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 10 ELA, math, and STE standards/ instructional shifts</p> <p>Administration of MCAS 2.0 tests</p>	<p>State/local grade 11 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 CBT practice test sessions</p> <p>Local use of online grade 11 PARCC or MCAS 2.0 PBT/CBT sample test items</p> <p>State/local PD on released items and student work</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 11 MCAS 2.0 test format/design and blueprints</p> <p>State/local PD on grade 11 ELA, math, and STE standards/ instructional shifts</p>



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Next-gen MCAS transition supports from PBT to CBT

Calendar Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
Student	<p>Practice tests (with accommodations) that mimic actual test problems</p> <p>Tutorials on the interface</p> <p>Regular access to the tools (with accommodations) – computer and tablets</p> <p>Practice at earlier grades</p> <p>Access and practice for parents</p>			
Educator	<p>Practice tests</p> <p>Professional development</p> <p>Experience (practice) with administration protocols</p> <p>Downloadable access to the tools that can be used in regular classroom activities</p> <p>Tech support and the ability for educators to ask questions</p>			



Key features of proposed high school testing options

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Keep our current HS testing system as is for grades 9-12, and add new assessments	Keep the core of our current grade 9-10 assessment options, but simplify grade 11-12 assessments	Redesign the HS ELA and math assessments and simplify end-of-course science assessments
Number of tests to develop and administer	16	13	7
Reduces HS testing time	✗	✓	✓+
Simplifies HS testing administration	✗	✓	✓+
Number of opportunities to pass CD requirement	5+	4	3+
Adds a CCR assessment	✓	✓	✓
Purposefully integrates CCR into MCAS system	✗	✓	✓
Adds a history/civic assessment	✓	✓	✓
Offers mid-year testing opportunities	✓	Limited	✗
Maintains core grade 9-10 CD components	✓	✓	Limited



Key high school testing decisions

- ★ Should the state develop a mandatory 9th-grade test as part of the transition to ensure additional exposure before the CD requirement?
- ★ Should an optional 9th-grade test become a permanent part of the high school testing program?
- ★ Should students be allowed to take the integrated math CD in grade 9 if the algebra and geometry prerequisites have been met?
- ★ Should there be an 11th-grade CCR test, and if so, should it be optional or mandatory? If mandatory, by when?
- ★ Should the 11th-grade CCR test be designed to also serve as the 10th-grade CD retest to reduce the number tests developed and to provide all students a CCR opportunity?



Additional Q&A

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