

MCAS and PARCC: Side by Side

	Current MCAS	PARCC
Grades and Subjects Tested: ELA and Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grades 3–8 and grade 10 ELA, including a composition component at grades 4, 7, and 10 ○ Grades 3–8 and grade 10 Mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grades 3–8 ELA and Math ○ High School Tests (Grades 9–11): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA/Literacy I, II, and III • Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II –OR– • Integrated Math I, II and III <p>Students are assessed based on the courses taken.</p>
Grades and Subjects Tested: STE (continues regardless of MCAS/PARCC choice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grades 5 and 8 Science and Technology/Engineering ○ High school STE end-of-course tests in Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering 	
Retesting Options	<p>There is no limit on the number of times that a student may participate in high school MCAS retests.</p> <p>For ELA and Mathematics, there are two regularly scheduled retest administrations each year (November and March). Prior to their scheduled graduation in twelfth grade, students have at least five opportunities to earn a CD in ELA and Mathematics.</p> <p>MCAS Retests are specifically designed assessments and have separate administrations from spring MCAS administrations.</p>	<p>PARCC doesn't offer a specific retest form, but students may take the tests over again during the fall and spring administrations. This would be available for high school students only.</p>
Standards alignment	<p>In grades 3-8 ELA and math, aligned to the 2010 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, with the exception of writing to text. MCAS assesses personal perspective/narrative writing in grades 4, 7, and 10.</p> <p>The grade 10 ELA and math MCAS are the high school Competency Determination (CD) assessments, and are aligned to the overlapping standards in the 2010 MA Frameworks and the 2000/2001 MA Frameworks.</p>	<p>Aligned to the 2010 MA Curriculum Frameworks that incorporate the Common Core State Standards.</p>
Dates of Administration	<p>March–April: Grades 3–8 and 10 ELA</p> <p>May: Grades 3–8 and 10 Mathematics; Grades 5 and 8 STE</p>	<p>2015:</p> <p>Two administrations</p> <p>March–April: Performance Based Assessments</p> <p>May–June: End-Of-Year Assessments</p>

	<p>June: High school (grades 9–12) end-of-course STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, and Technology/Engineering)</p> <p>February: Biology test (additional opportunity)</p> <p>Retests for HS ELA/Math in November and March</p>	<p>2016: One administration April –June (In response to what was learned in the field test.)</p> <p>Retests fall and spring during regular testing windows</p>
<p>Item Types</p>	<p><u>Multiple choice</u> [all grades]</p> <p><u>Open response</u> [all grades]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to generate a response. Students create a one- or two-paragraph response in writing or in the form of a narrative or a chart, table, diagram, illustration or graph, as appropriate. <p><u>Short-response</u> [grade 3 ELA only]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to generate a brief response to a reading comprehension question <p><u>Short-answer</u> [math only]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to generate a brief response, usually a numerical solution or a brief statement <p><u>Writing Prompt</u> (grades 4, 7, and 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to respond by creating a written composition 	<p>--All item types for all grades--</p> <p><u>Multiple choice</u></p> <p><u>Multiple select</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to select more than one correct answer to a question <p><u>Short answer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to generate a brief response to a reading comprehension or mathematics question. This may be written out or completed via the equation editor <p><u>Written response to text</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to produce a written response to a test question <p><u>Technology-enhanced constructed response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires students to respond to a test question by using technology, such as drag and drop, cut and paste, and highlight text features
<p>Timed or Untimed</p>	<p>Untimed</p> <p>Recommended Time for scheduling purposes - 2 hours per session (actual time on task is between 45 and 60 minutes for each session):</p> <p>Grade 3: 8 hrs Grades 4&7: 12 hrs Grades 5,6,8: 8 hrs High School: 14 hrs</p> <p>Times shown are for ELA and Math</p> <p>STE testing (continues regardless of MCAS/PARCC choice) Grade 5: 4 hours Grade 8: 4 hours HS: 4 hours</p>	<p>Timed</p> <p>2016 Administration Times for ELA and Math Grade 3: 8.25 hrs Grades 4-5: 8.5 hrs Grades 6-8: 9.2 hrs High School: 9.7 hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some students will take an ELA field test unit (90 minutes additional time) ○ Untimed to end of school day for each session only for ELLs and students with disabilities

Computer-based or Paper-based	Paper-based	Offered as computer-based or paper-based option.
Reporting of Results		
Preliminary ELA results with Math and Science multiple choice to schools and districts	Late June	N/A
Preliminary Math and Science results and full participation results	Early August	<i>Anticipated for 2016:</i> Late summer, with ELA results
Official State, School and District results	Mid-September	<i>Anticipated for 2016:</i> Early fall
Parent Reports	Late September	<i>Anticipated for 2016:</i> Early fall