**Summary of public comment in response to proposed amendments to Regulations on MCAS and the Competency Determination (603 CMR 30.00)**

*Public comment period: November 18, 2018–January 11, 2019*

**Profile of respondents**

We received 100 responses during the public comment period, primarily via email. Most of the respondents were teachers, educators, department heads, administrators, or policymakers in the science fields. Although these educators were from a number of different schools and districts, they were concentrated in a few areas that continue to offer the technology/engineering test to some of their students, including Agawam High School, Franklin County Technical School, Gloucester High School, and Wachusett Regional High School. In addition, we received letters from 15 students in a classroom at Agawam Junior High.

We also heard from several superintendents, school committees, and legislators:

* Senator Anne Gobi, Representative Donald Berthiaume, Representative Kimberly Ferguson, and Representative Peter Durant, on behalf of the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Committee
* Kathleen Clancy, vice-chair, Gloucester School Committee
* Tom Hickey, superintendent/director, South Shore Vocational Technical High School
* Michael Morris, superintendent, Amherst-Pelham Regional School District

**Summary of responses**

Nearly all of the responses voiced opposition to the idea of phasing out the technology/engineering and chemistry tests, with a strong emphasis on retaining technology/engineering. The currently proposed amendments to the regulations do not eliminate these tests.

Only three of the responses (listed below) specifically addressed the actual proposed amendments to the regulations; namely, the granting of policy-making authority to the Board to determine the disciplines that can be assessed for high school science. All three responses were opposed to this change because of the concern that such a change could lead to the elimination of the chemistry and technology/engineering tests.

* + James Cook, principal, Gloucester High School
	+ Twelve members of the Gloucester High School science department
	+ Rebecca Audette, middle school general science/technology/engineering teacher and curriculum coordinator at Hawthorne Brook Middle School in North Middlesex

Two of the responses contained other questions about science and technology/engineering testing, which were referred to Department staff for a response.

We did not receive any comments that addressed the changes to the regulations that would establish an interim standard for the classes of 2023 and 2024.