# **2025–26 Statewide Testing Schedule and Administration Deadlines: *MCAS, MCAS-Alt, WIDA ACCESS, and NAEP***

## General Information about MCAS Test Administrations

Schools should note the following information when considering the testing windows and schedules for the 2025–26 school year:

* MCAS testing is administered online, with paper-based testing (PBT) available as an accommodation for students with disabilities using accommodation A1 and English learners using accommodation EL1. Schools requesting a school-wide exception to the computer-based testing (CBT) expectation will be able to request a waiver; details are provided prior to each administration in the [Student Assessment Update](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/updates.html).
* MCAS tests are based on the following test designs:
  + [ELA](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/ela.html?section=testdesign)
  + [Mathematics](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/math.html?section=testdesign)
  + [STE](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/sci.html)
  + [Civics](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/hss.html)

## MCAS Updates for High Schools for 2025–26

* Beginning this school year, the March retests will no longer be administered. Schools should refer to the high school participation guidelines for the November retests as well as other high school administrations.
* High school tests will be conducted within allowable windows, and DESE is providing recommended dates instead of prescribed dates.

## General MCAS Test Administration Steps

The following are general MCAS test administration steps (note that terms below are further defined in the MCAS Pre-Administration Guide).

**Steps completed once annually:**

* Update and edit MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site user accounts
* Download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosk on student testing devices.
* Conduct Site Readiness to ensure devices and network are configured for testing

**Steps prior to each test administration window:**

* Complete the pre-administration student registration process
  + Schools must complete student registration by the deadline in order to receive an on-time initial shipment of manuals as well as PBT materials for students who require them.
  + Schools will not receive PBT Student ID Labels for students registered in the MCAS Portal after this initial student registration deadline.
  + Schools may update student registration information and accommodations for students participating in CBT during the extended pre-administration window. However, additional manuals for students registered for CBT after the initial student registration window listed above will not be sent automatically. Schools must order additional manuals and PBT materials for these students during the additional materials window.
* Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT
  + “Classes” are groups of students who will test in the same place at the same time. A student must be assigned to a class prior to testing.
  + Classes can be created during the initial student registration window or anytime leading up to and during the testing window. The Department recommends creating and assigning classes two weeks prior to testing.
* Receive manuals and PBT materials ordered for accommodations
* “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT
  + Classes must be “scheduled” in the MCAS Portal after they are created and before students begin testing. “Scheduling” a class creates student logins, which are necessary for testing.
  + Schools will be able to “schedule” classes beginning one week prior to administration.
* If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments

**Steps after each test administration window:**

* Update student registration information, if necessary
* Complete the Principal’s Certification of Proper Test Administration (PCPA) online form)
* (PBT only) Monitor the school’s pre-scheduled/automatic UPS pickup or schedule an earlier pickup
  + Schools are encouraged to return materials once testing has been completed.

## Tasks to Complete Once Annually for MCAS Testing

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Staff Responsible** | **Task** | **Timeframe** |
| District and school   test coordinators | Update and edit MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site user accounts    For detailed steps, refer to the[*MCAS Portal User Management Guide*](https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal/)*.* | *Recommended deadlines:*   * September 2025 to deactivate accounts of all staff who will not participate in MCAS testing in 2025–26. * September 2025 (to update/edit test coordinator, principal, and technology coordinator accounts) * At least three weeks prior to test administration (to update/edit test administrator accounts) |
| Technology coordinators | Download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosk on student testing devices.  Conduct Site Readiness to ensure devices and network are configured for testing    For detailed steps, refer to the [*MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide*](https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup/)*.* | *Available:* September 15  *Recommended deadline:*   * At least two months prior to testing |

## November 2025 MCAS ELA and Mathematics Retests

### Before Testing

|  |  |
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| Complete the pre-administration student registration process | September 15–26 |
| Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT | September 29–November 4 |
| Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT | *Recommended deadline:*  October 22 |
| Receive manuals and PBT materials (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.) | October 29 |
| “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT | **ELA:** October 29–November 4  **Math:** November 5–10 |
| If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments | **ELA:** October 29–November 3  **Math:** October 29–November 7 |

### Test Administration

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| --- | --- |
| **ELA Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * ELA Session 1 * ELA Session 2 | **November 5–18**  November 5  November 6 |
| **Mathematics Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * Mathematics Session 1 * Mathematics Session 2 | **November 12–18**  November 12  November 13 |

### After Testing

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary | November 18 |
| Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for both subject areas) | November 18 |
| *(PBT only)* Pre-scheduled UPS pickup | November 19 |

## February 2026 MCAS High School Science

### Before Testing

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| --- | --- |
| Complete the pre-administration student registration process | December 1–12 |
| Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT | December 15–February 2 |
| Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT | *Recommended deadline:* January 20 |
| Receive manuals and PBT materials (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.) | January 27 |
| “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT | January 27–February 2 |
| If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments | January 27–30 |

### Test Administration

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| **High School Science Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * High School Science Session 1 * High School Science Session 2 | **February 3–9**  February 3  February 4 |

### After Testing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary | February 9 |
| Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for both subject areas) | February 9 |
| *(PBT only)* Pre-scheduled UPS pickup | February 10 |

## Spring 2026 MCAS Tests for Grades 3–8: ELA, Mathematics, STE and Civics

### Before Testing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Complete the pre-administration student registration process. | January 20–30 |
| Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT | **ELA**: February 2–March 20  **Math/STE/Civics**: February 2–April 17 |
| Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT. | Recommended deadlines:  **ELA**: March 9  **Math/STE/Civics**: April 13 |
| Receive manuals and PBT materials  (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.) | **ELA (including all manuals):** March 9  **Math/STE/Civics**: April 13 |
| “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT. | **ELA**: March 16–20  **Math/STE/Civics**: April 13–17 |
| If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments | **ELA**: March 9–19  **Math/STE/Civics**: April 13–16 |

### Test Administration

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| ELA testing window | **March 23–April 17**  *(Note the earlier window for ELA.)* |
| Mathematics testing window | **April 27–May 22** |
| STE testing window for grades 5 and 8 | **April 27–May 22** |
| Civics testing window for grade 8 | **April 27–June 5** |

### After Testing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary | **ELA:** April 27  **Math/STE:** May 26  **Civics*:*** June 8 |
| Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for all subject areas) | June 8 |
| *(PBT only)* Pre-scheduled UPS pickup | **ELA:** April 28  **Math/STE:** May 27  **Civics:** June 9 |

## Spring 2026 MCAS Tests for Grade 10 in ELA and Mathematics

**Before Testing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Complete the pre-administration student registration process | January 26–February 6 |
| Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT | **ELA:** February 9–March 23  **Math:** February 9–May 18 |
| Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT | *Recommended deadlines:*  **ELA:** March 10  **Math:** May 5 |
| Receive manuals and PBT materials (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.) | **ELA:** March 10  **Math:** May 5 |
| “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT | **ELA:** March17–23  **Math:** May 12–18 |
| If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments | **ELA:** March 10–20  **Math:** May 5–15 |

**Test Administration**

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| --- | --- |
| **ELA Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * ELA Session 1 * ELA Session 2 | **March 24–April 2**  March 24  March 25 |
| **Mathematics Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * Mathematics Session 1 * Mathematics Session 2 | **May 19–27**  May 19  May 20 |

**After Testing**

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary | **ELA:** April 6  **Math:** May 28 |
| Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for both subject areas) | May 28 |
| *(PBT only)* Pre-scheduled UPS pickup | **ELA:** April 7  **Math:** May 29 |

**Spring 2026 MCAS High School Science**

### Before Testing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Complete the pre-administration student registration process | April 10–28 |
| Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT | April 29–June 1 |
| Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT | *Recommended deadline:*  May 19 |
| Receive manuals and PBT materials (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.) | May 19 |
| “Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT | May 26–June 1 |
| If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments | May 19–May 29 |

### Test Administration

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| **High School Science Testing Window**  *Recommended dates:*   * High School Science Session 1 * High School Science Session 2 | **June 2–10**  June 2  June 3 |

### After Testing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary | June 11 |
| Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for both subject areas) | June 11 |
| *(PBT only)* Pre-scheduled UPS pickup | June 11 |

## 2026 WIDA ACCESS Test (Grades K–12)

**Notes:**

* ACCESS is a computer-based administration for grades 1–12, with paper alternative for students with disabilities with paper-based testing written in their IEP or 504 plan, and first-year ELs unfamiliar with technology or online testing.
* The Kindergarten ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS tests remain paper-based.
* **All WIDA ACCESS dates below are tentative at this time.**
* For more information, refer to the Department’s [WIDA ACCESS web page.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/access/default.html)

### Before Testing

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| WIDA AMS test setup | To be announced |
| Receive test materials  (Note: Schools will not order initial materials.) | January 5–6 |
| Order additional materials, if necessary | January 7–February 6 |

### Test Administration

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| WIDA ACCESS test window | January 7–February 13 |

### After Testing

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline to schedule UPS pickup | February 16 |
| Deadline for UPS pickup | February 17 |

## 2026 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt) for Grades 3–8 and High School)

For more information, refer to the [MCAS-Alt website](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/default.html).

### Before Submission

|  |  |
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| Order MCAS-Alt submission materials | January 5–16 |
| Receive submission materials (binders, etc.) | February 23 |
| Complete PCPA (part 1 only) | Upon receipt and inspection of shipment |
| Order additional materials, if necessary | February 23–March 25 |

### Submission

The window below includes dates for makeup testing.

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| --- | --- |
| Deadline to schedule UPS pickup | 2:30 p.m., March 26 |
| Deadline for UPS pickup | **5:00 p.m., March 27** |

### After Submission

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| Deadline to complete the PCPA | Following MCAS-Alt submission:  March 27–April 2 |

## 2026 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Note: The information below **only** applies to schools that have already been notified by DESE that they have been sampled for NAEP.

The 2026 assessed grades/subjects are Grade 4 (Math/Reading/Pilot), Grade 8 (Math/Reading/Pilot or Civics/US History), and Grade 12 (Pilot). For more information, refer to DESE’s [NAEP webpage](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/natl-intl/naep/).

### Test Administration

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| --- | --- |
| NAEP testing window | **January 26–March 20** |