

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Students educated with Massachusetts public funds are required by federal laws to participate in statewide testing. Students in grades 3–8 and high school participate in MCAS assessments that measure English Language Arts and Mathematics. A student's knowledge of Science and Technology/Engineering is assessed in grades 5, 8, and high school, and a student's knowledge of Civics is assessed in grade 8.

At your child's IEP team meeting, the criteria for participating in the MCAS-Alt assessment were reviewed. Based on the collected evidence, the IEP Team determined that your child met the eligibility criteria definition to participate in the MCAS-Alt.

The MCAS-Alt measures alternate academic achievement standards that are significantly reduced in complexity, depth, and breadth compared to the academic standards assessed in the general MCAS assessments.

Each year, the IEP team will review the decision to determine the most meaningful way for your child to participate in required statewide assessments: the MCAS-Alt or the standard MCAS test with accommodations.

We want you to be aware that participation in the MCAS-Alt may delay or affect your child's ability to earn a regular high school diploma because the MCAS-Alt assesses learning standards that are less complex than the academic learning expectations of their peers.

Your child's team can answer your questions about MCAS and MCAS-Alt, or you may call the DESE Office of Student Assessment at 781-338-3625.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.

Sincerely,