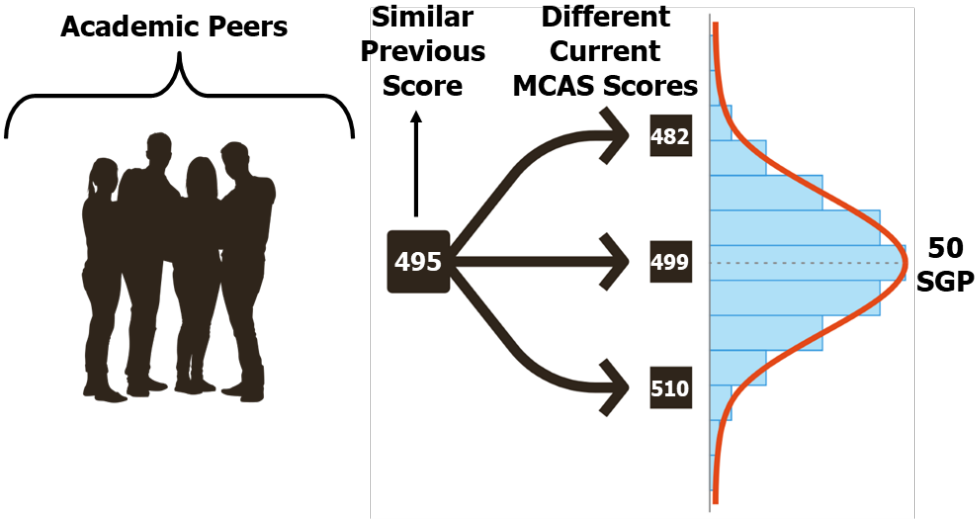
Understanding Your Child's MCAS Achievement and Growth Results

Student Growth Percentiles (SGP)

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) lets you see how much your child has learned in one school year compared to others across the state. It gives you a clear picture of how well your child is doing on grade-level work and helps you understand their progress. SGP measures **how much a student learned from one year to the next compared to their academic peers.**

Academic Peers

Your child's "academic peers" are other students in the same grade as your child who scored like your child on previous MCAS tests. These peers can be from any background or program, including special education and multilingual education programs. They don't have to be the same gender, race, ethnicity, or income level as your child, but they do have similar previous MCAS scores as your child.



Understanding SGP

All students, no matter how they did on the MCAS (whether they met expectations or not) can show growth. For example, if your child has an SGP of 58, it means they did as well as or better than 58% of students in the same grade with similar previous scores. The SGP helps show how much your child has learned in a year compared to other students who started with similar scores.

Here are general guidelines for understanding SGP as levels of growth:

SGP	Growth Level	Interpretation
1–20	Very Low	Below average growth
21–40	Low	
41–60	Moderate	Average growth
61–80	High	Above average growth
81–99	Very High	

The Parent/Guardian Report

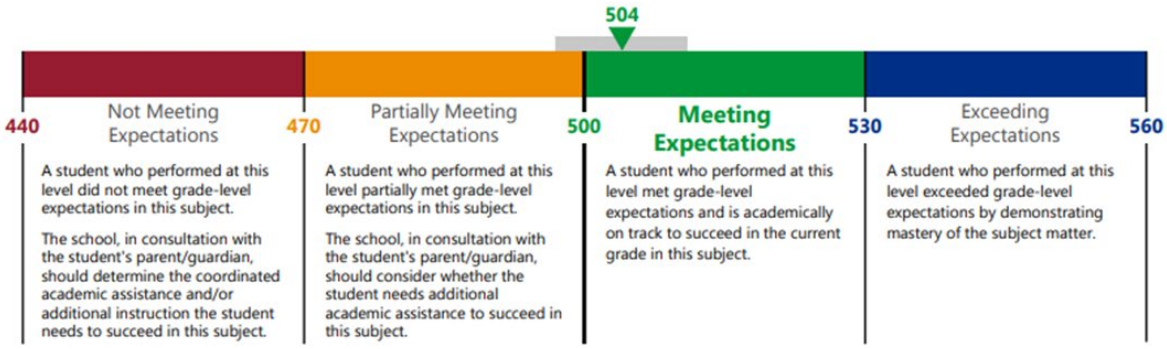
The Parent/Guardian Report gives you information about how your child did on each MCAS test they took that year. Below are some examples from the Parent/Guardian Report. You can use this information to talk with your child's teacher about their academic progress. If you lose the report, you can ask the school to give you another copy.

Name:
SASID:

English Language Arts

Computer-based test

Your Child's Achievement Level: **Meeting Expectations**
Your Child's Score: **504**



A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject.

The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject.

The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

The horizontal gray bars in the graphics above and below show the range of likely scores your child would receive if they took the test multiple times.

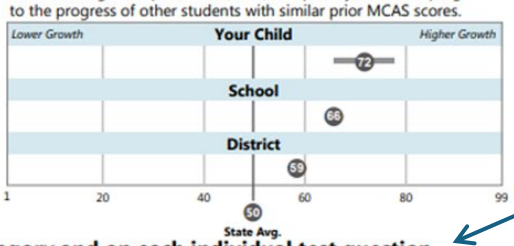
Achievement

This table shows how your child performed compared to students in their school, district, and state.

Your Child's		Year	Average Score		
Grade	Score		School	District	State
7	504	2023	516	513	493
6	504	2022			
5	487	2021			

2023 Student Growth Percentiles

The student growth percentile (1–99) compares your child's progress to the progress of other students with similar prior MCAS scores.



This table helps you understand the areas of the test where your child did well and the areas where they may need more support.

How your child performed in each reporting category and on each individual test question

Reporting Category	Points Earned by Your Child	Average Points in School	Average Points in District	Average Points in State	Total Possible Points	Average Points at Meeting Expectations*
Language (LA)† ■■■■■■■■■■□□	10	9.3	9.2	7.2	12	8.4
Reading (RE) ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■	19	21.5	20.9	16.7	28	19.1
Writing (WR)‡ ■■■■□□□□□□	4	5.5	5.0	3.2	10	3.5

† The Language reporting category includes the standard English convention scores from essays.
‡ The Writing reporting category is based on the idea development scores from essays.

* Average number of points earned statewide by students at or near a score of 500, at the low end of the Meeting Expectations level.

Individual Test Questions

Go online to access released test questions at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html.

Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 CV	12 ID	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27 CV	27 ID	28	29	30	31
Reporting Category	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	LA	RE	RE	RE	LA	RE	LA	WR	LA	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	RE	LA	RE	RE	RE	LA	WR	RE	LA	RE	RE
Points Earned	1/1	0/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	2/2	0/2	2/3	2/5	1/1	1/1	2/2	1/1	2/2	1/1	0/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	1/1	1/1	0/2	3/3	2/5	0/1	1/1	0/1	0/1

Key Points Earned: x/y = x points earned out of y possible points; Blank space = no answer; ID = Essay idea development score; CV = Essay conventions score

This table shows whether your child answered each question correctly, how many points they earned on each question, and which questions they did not answer.

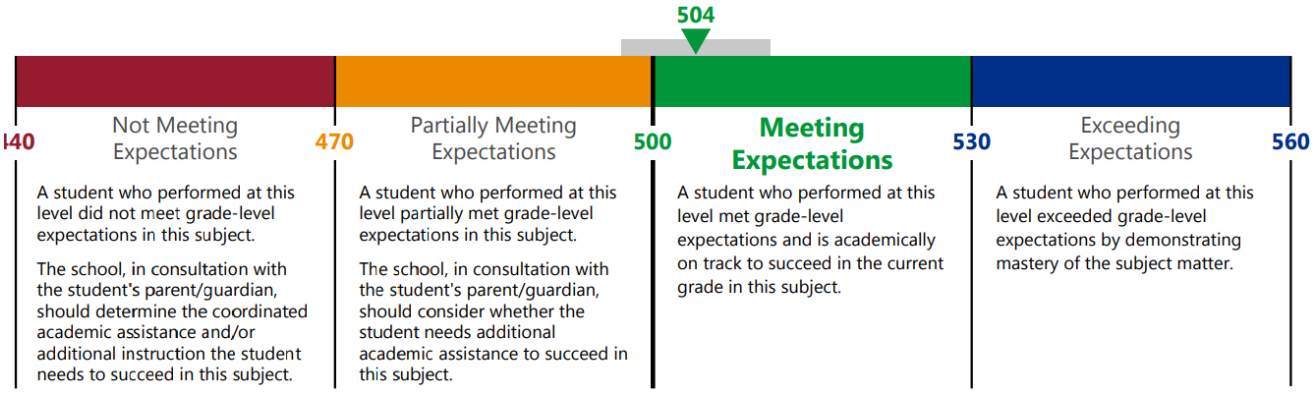
Understanding the Report

To get a complete picture of your child's progress, it is helpful to look at both achievement and growth. MCAS achievement levels and scores show how well your child understands the material for their grade. The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) shows how much your child improved from one year to the next compared to other students with similar past scores. As you read the report, you can think about these questions:

1. Does this information match how my child is doing on their homework?
2. Does this information make sense based on what I have discussed with my child's teacher?
3. Would my child benefit from extra support? What does my child's teacher suggest?

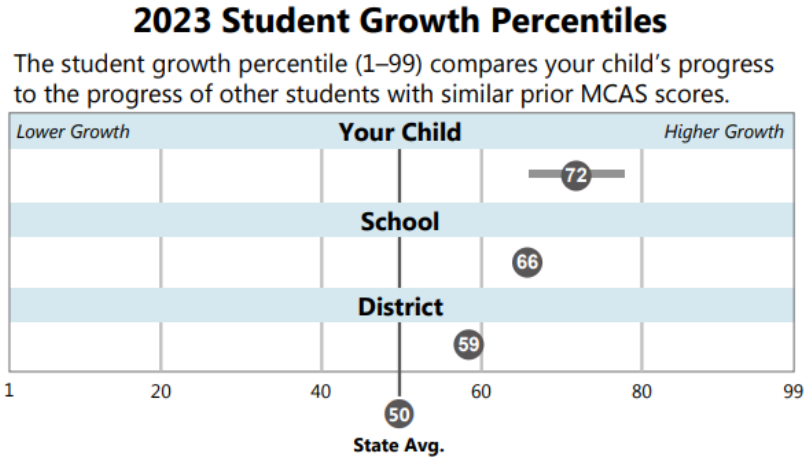
Achievement

In this sample Parent/Guardian Report, the student earned a score of 504, which is at the achievement level of Meeting Expectations. The gray bar shows the range of potential scores a student might earn if they took the test many times. In this example, the student's potential range of scores is between 495 and 510, showing that they likely met grade-level standards in this subject.



Growth

This student has an SGP of 72. That means this student scored the same as or better than 72% of their peers—other students across the state who scored similarly on previous MCAS ELA tests. This is considered **high growth** and is above the school's average SGP of 66, the district average of 59, and the state average of 50.



Reporting Categories

The Reporting Category table shows how well your child performed in different aspects of a subject. This example is a report for ELA, English Language Arts. The student in this example did the best in the Language category, earning 10 out of 12 points. This is higher than the school average (9.3 points), the district average (9.2 points), and the state average (7.2 points).

This table also compares your child's score to the scores of students across the state who scored at or near the Meeting Expectations achievement level (around 500). In this example, the student scored higher in the Language reporting category (10 points) than the state average for students who scored at or near 500 (8.4 points).

In other areas of ELA, like Reading and Writing, the student did not do as well, scoring below the school and district averages.

This table helps you see your child's strengths and the areas where they may need more support.

How your child performed in each reporting category and on each individual test question

Reporting Category	Points Earned by Your Child	Average Points in School	Average Points in District	Average Points in State	Total Possible Points	Average Points at Meeting Expectations*
Language (LA)†	10	9.3	9.2	7.2	12	8.4
Reading (RE)	19	21.5	20.9	16.7	28	19.1
Writing (WR) ‡	4	5.5	5.0	3.2	10	3.5

† The Language reporting category includes the standard English convention scores from essays.
‡ The Writing reporting category is based on the idea development scores from essays.

* Average number of points earned statewide by students at or near a score of 500, at the low end of the Meeting Expectations level.

Glossary

MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System): the statewide testing program in Massachusetts that helps teachers, families, and students know where students are excelling and where they need help. MCAS tests are given to students in grades 3–8 and high school in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science and technology/engineering (STE), and civics.

SGP (Student Growth Percentile): a measurement of how much your child has learned from one school year to the next, compared to other students across the state who have similar previous MCAS scores

academic peers: other students across Massachusetts in the same grade as your child who scored like your child did on previous MCAS tests

Parent/Guardian Report: a report families receive for each MCAS test their child took

reporting categories: areas of learning within a subject