

Accessibility and Accommodations
(Appendix C, excerpted from the Fall 2026/Winter 2027 PAM)

Appendix C

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New for 2026–27: The *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* is the primary source of information about MCAS accessibility features and accommodations. Principals and test coordinators must use that manual when planning for and administering accessibility features and accommodations.

The *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* describes the accessibility features available to all students and the accommodations available to students with disabilities and English learners (ELs). For students with disabilities, accommodations are determined by the student’s IEP or 504 team and documented in the student’s IEP or 504 plan. For ELs, accessibility features and accommodations are selected by a group of educators familiar with the student and should be reviewed annually based on the student’s individual needs and English language proficiency.

The manual also includes criteria for special access accommodations (SAAs), which are intended for a small number of students with disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria. IEP and 504 teams must review and apply the criteria in the manual when determining whether a special access accommodation is appropriate for a student.

Before testing, refer to the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* for the following:

- identifying the accessibility features and accommodations that each student will use, and reviewing applicable eligibility or other requirements
- identifying accommodations that must be entered in the Student Registration file and completing any required setup for computer-based testing, including assigning the correct test form for form-dependent accommodations (screen reader, human signer, compatible assistive technology, and the Spanish/English edition)
- reviewing guidance for selecting and administering the Spanish/English edition, including reviewing the required setup in the MCAS Portal
- preparing for accommodations that require specific administration procedures, such as human read-aloud, human signer, scribe, speech-to-text, assistive technology, and typed responses
- determining when a test administrator must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment before administering an accommodation
- following procedures for recording, transcribing, and submitting student responses when students do not enter their responses directly in the MCAS Student Kiosk or test & answer booklet

The tables below are provided as a quick reference. They list MCAS accessibility features and accommodations as well as the corresponding columns in the Student Registration file, if applicable. The tables do not include all eligibility requirements, setup instructions, or administration procedures.

Refer to the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* for complete information (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility).

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Table 1. List of Universal Accessibility Features (UFs) and Designated Accessibility Features (DFs)

Feature Number	Accessibility Feature	Student Registration Column
UF1	Highlighter tool	N/A
UF2	Color contrast	N/A
UF3	Screen Zoom tool	N/A
UF4	Enlarged cursor/Mouse pointer tool	Column Q
UF5	Line reader tool	N/A
UF6	Hiding options tool	N/A
UF7	Answer eliminator (not available in 2026)	N/A
UF8	Item flag/Bookmark	N/A
UF9	Audio aid	N/A
UF10	Notepad	N/A
UF11	Test administrator reads aloud (or signs) selected words	N/A
UF12	Test administrator redirects the student's attention to the test	N/A
UF13	Test administrator reads aloud, repeats, or clarifies general test administration directions	N/A
UF14	General masking	N/A
UF15	Reverse contrast	N/A
DF1	Small group test administration (may include up to a total of 10 students)	N/A
DF2	Individual (one-to-one) test administration	N/A
DF3	Frequent brief supervised breaks	N/A
DF4	Separate or alternate test location	N/A
DF5	Seating in a specified area	N/A
DF6	Adaptive or specialized furniture	N/A
DF7	Noise buffer	N/A
DF8	Familiar test administrator	N/A
DF9	Student reads test aloud to self	N/A
DF10	Specific time of day	N/A
DF11	Stop Testing policy	N/A

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Table 2. List of Accommodations

Accommodation Number	Accommodation	Student Registration Column
A1	Paper-based edition	Column L
A2	Large print <i>PBT only</i>	Column AI
A3.1	Screen reader	Column AL
A3.2	Braille edition	Column AJ
A3.3	Assistive Technology	Column AM
A4	Text-to-Speech <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column S
A5	Human Read-Aloud <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column T
A6.1	Human Signer <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column U
A6.2	ASL video <i>not available for Fall/Winter tests</i>	Column AK
A7	Human Signer for test directions only	N/A
A8	Track test items	N/A
A9	Approved graphic organizers, checklists, or supplemental reference sheets	Column R
A10.1	Scribe responses <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column V
A10.2	Speech-to-text <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column W
A11	Responses recorded on special paper	N/A
A12	Typed responses	Column AH
A13	Student records responses on a recording device	N/A
A14	Responses signed onto a video	N/A
A15	Monitor placement of responses	N/A
A16	Refreshable Braille display	N/A
A16	Braille note-taker	N/A
A17	Braille writer	N/A
A18	Word Prediction <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column X

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Table 3. List of Special Access Accommodations

Accommodation Number	Special Access Accommodation	Student Registration Column
SAA1.1	Text-to-Speech for the ELA tests	Column Y
SAA1.2	Human Read-Aloud for the ELA tests	Column Z
SAA2	Human Signer for the ELA tests	Column AA
SAA3.1	Scribe for the ELA tests	Column AB
SAA3.2	Speech-to-text for the ELA tests	Column AC
SAA4	Calculator for the noncalculator session of the Mathematics test	Column AF
SAA5	Spell Checker for the ELA tests	Column AG
SAA6	Word Prediction for the ELA tests	Column AD

Table 4. List of EL Accommodations

Accommodation Number	Accommodation	Student Registration Column
EL1	Paper-based edition	Column L
EL2	Word-to word dictionary and glossary	N/A
EL3.1	Text-to-Speech <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column S
EL3.2	Human Read-Aloud <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column T
EL4.1	Scribe responses <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column V
EL4.2	Speech-to-text <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column W
EL5	Test administrator reads aloud, repeats, or clarifies general test administration directions in English	N/A
EL6	Test administrator reads aloud/repeats/clarifies general administration directions in student's native language	N/A
EL7	Spanish/English edition of the Mathematics and Science tests	Column AE
EL8	Word prediction <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column X