



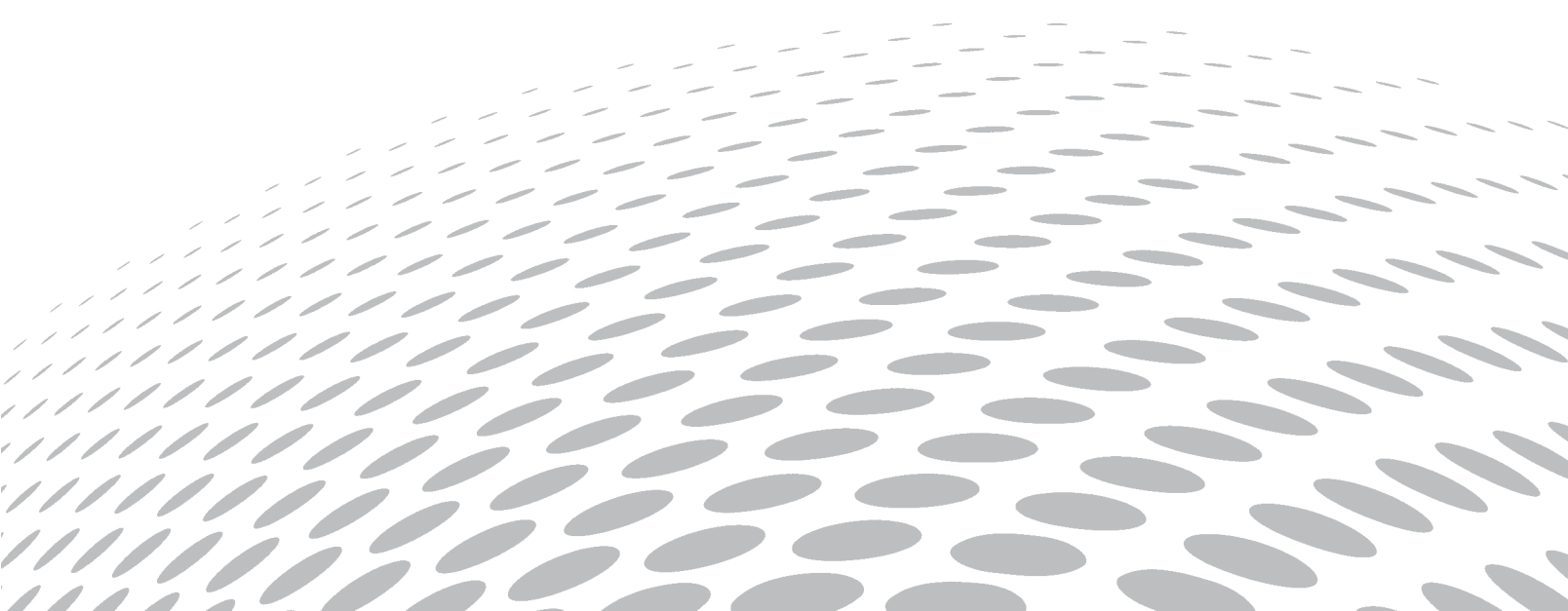
Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

PRINCIPAL'S ADMINISTRATION M A N U A L

November ELA and Mathematics Retests November 5–18, 2025
February High School Science Tests February 3–9, 2026



FALL 2025/WINTER 2026





This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Pedro Martinez
Commissioner

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Purpose of This Manual

This *Principal's Administration Manual* (PAM) provides the information necessary for principals and school leaders to conduct a smooth and successful MCAS administration. It is meant to be used in conjunction with training modules and other resources posted at the MCAS Resource Center (mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org), as well as the *Test Administrator's Manuals*, which provide instructions for test administrators as well as scripts to read to students during the test administration sessions.

DESE has high expectations for proper MCAS administration and requests that principals and test administrators take sufficient time to read and understand their respective manuals. In order to have confidence that MCAS tests are eliciting students' independent work and assessing their knowledge and skills in the tested subjects, it is important that test administration protocols are followed across the Commonwealth.

If any information seems unclear, or if you have any special situations, specialists in DESE's Student Assessment Services Unit are available to answer questions. You may also search for a keyword or select hyperlinks (including internal page and section references) in the PDF version of this manual, which is available on DESE's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/manual.

The following icons are included in the margins of the manual to designate key areas where a principal may need to consult with others.



technology coordinators



accessibility and accommodations, and information related to students with disabilities and ELs

Additionally, the following icon is used to identify training opportunities.



training

DESE counts on your leadership to maintain Massachusetts's reputation for high standards, high-quality assessments based on those standards, and educational excellence.

Important Contact Information and Resources

Contact	MCAS Service Center
For questions on:	• general test administration support • the MCAS Portal and the MCAS Student Kiosk such as › user accounts › technology support and site readiness › viewing student records and organizations › the Student Registration process and loading files • logistical support, including filling out the Materials Summary and the PCPA • locating resources • shipments of materials
Hours	7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
Web	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org Use this website to access training modules and other materials to support test administration, including a link to the MCAS Service Center website (mcasservicecenter.com) where schools will access the PCPA and order additional materials.
Email	mcas@cognia.org
Telephone	1-800-737-5103 TTY: 1-888-222-1671

Contact	DESE Office of Student Assessment Services
For questions on:	• policy, such as assigning accessibility features and accommodations • student participation • testing irregularities, including test security incidents and technology irregularities/failures • voiding a test • student data and SIMS, call your district SIMS contact (Go to profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavID=11239, select SIMS Contact from the Function menu, and click Get Results.) • reactivating a test, call your district MCAS test coordinator (Go to profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavID=11239, select MCAS Test Coordinator from the Function menu, and click Get Results.)
Hours	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday Schools that need logistical support between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. should call the MCAS Service Center at 1-800-737-5103.
Web	www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest
Email	mcas@mass.gov
Telephone	1-781-338-3625

Important Information about Online Accounts and Passwords

Type of Account	Purpose	How Sign-in Information Is Provided
MCAS Portal (mcas.cognia.org)	Schools will use the MCAS Portal to do the following: • Register students for tests • Upload selected accessibility features and accommodations for each student • Create and manage classes • Monitor online testing	DESE created an initial set of user accounts in fall 2024. Additional accounts should be managed at the district or school level. Users will need to set their passwords the first time they log in. Contact the MCAS Service Center for support.
MCAS Training Site (mcas-training.cognia.org)	Schools may use the training site to set up and administer practice tests, and to allow users to practice the tasks required in the MCAS Portal.	Users will need to change their passwords the first time they log in.
MCAS Service Center (mcasservicecenter.com)	Schools will use the MCAS Service Center website to do the following: • Order additional materials (manuals for CBT, and test materials for PBT) • Complete the Principal's Certification of Proper Test Administration (PCPA)	The password for the MCAS Service Center can be found in the memo posted to the MCAS 2025 Data folder in Dropbox Central, located in DESE's Security Portal (gateway.edu.state.ma.us). Use the Ship Code printed on the Materials Summary form to order additional materials.

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Statewide Testing Schedule and Administration Deadlines

Tasks to Complete Once Annually for MCAS Testing

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 <i>MCAS Portal User Management Guide</i>. mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal	<i>Recommended deadlines:</i> - 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 <i>MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide</i>. mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup	<i>Available:</i> September 15 <i>Recommended deadline:</i> At least two months prior to testing

November 2025 MCAS ELA and Mathematics Retests

Before Testing

Task	Dates
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	<i>Recommended deadline:</i> 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

ELA Testing Window <i>Recommended dates:</i> • ELA Session 1 • ELA Session 2	November 5–18 November 5 November 6
Mathematics Testing Window <i>Recommended dates:</i> • Mathematics Session 1 • Mathematics Session 2	November 12–18 November 12 November 13

After Testing

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

February 2026 MCAS High School Science

Before Testing

Task	Dates
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	<i>Recommended deadline:</i> 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

High School Science Testing Window	February 3–9
<i>Recommended dates:</i>	
High School Science Session 1	February 3
High School Science Session 2	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)	
<i>(PBT only)</i> Pre-scheduled UPS pickup	February 10

Updates for the Fall 2025/Winter 2026 MCAS Test Administrations

Updates listed below are of particular importance but note that this list is not exhaustive.

Topic	General Information
Test Administrations	There will not be a March 2026 administration of the ELA and Mathematics retests, as the March retests have been discontinued.
Administration Schedule	The November ELA and Mathematics retests and the February High School Science tests now have testing windows with recommended testing dates rather than prescribed dates.
MCAS Portal	• The Details view on the Test Scheduling page has a new “Progress View” that shows how many questions a student has visited, how many questions a student has answered, and how many questions a student has not yet answered. • The export menu on the Test Scheduling page now has an option to “Export Logins for All Tests” which will export student logins for all tests in all content areas at the selected school.
CBT Tools	The Answer Eliminator feature (UF7) will no longer be available in the MCAS Student Kiosk.

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Part I

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MCAS Test Security Requirements

MCAS Test Security Requirements

The purpose of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is to elicit valid results showing what students know and can do in the tested subjects. The purpose of the MCAS Test Security Requirements is to protect the validity of those results.

Principals and school staff members must follow the requirements listed below and may not participate in, direct, assist in, encourage, or fail to report any testing irregularity or act of misconduct.

Principals are responsible for ensuring that all test administrators and school staff members authorized to have access to secure materials and test content are trained in and comply with the requirements and instructions contained in this part of the *Principal's Administration Manual* (PAM) and in the *Test Administrator's Manuals* (TAMs).

Please note the following definitions for the purposes of this section and this manual:

- **“Secure”** content and materials include the following:
 - › test questions not publicly released by DESE
 - › any onscreen test content (e.g., ELA passages)
 - › student responses to test questions
 - › student logins
 - › test administrator logins
 - › summary pages
 - › used scratch paper

The following secure testing materials must be tracked using internal tracking forms:

- › student logins
- › test administrator logins
- › used scratch paper (Scratch paper must be accounted for on tracking forms but individual sheets do not need to be counted.)
- **“Access”** refers to handling secure testing materials, but does not include viewing test content, which is prohibited (except when administering certain accommodations listed in Appendix C). Students may never transport secure testing materials, including from their initial testing room to a test completion room.

Note: Student testing devices are not considered secure unless they are actively signed in to the MCAS Student Kiosk. Students may transport testing devices as long as the students’ tests are paused, or devices are signed out of the MCAS Student Kiosk.

- **“Locked storage area”** refers to the central locked area that must be used to store all secure materials when they are not in use. Principals must restrict access to the locked storage area to only those school staff members authorized by the principal to handle secure materials. For example, custodial or cleaning staff may not enter or access the locked area where the principal stores secure materials.

Each principal must complete the Principal’s Certification of Proper Test Administration (PCPA) to certify that the school has followed proper MCAS test security requirements and test administration protocols. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for the certification statements to which the principal must attest.

A Responsibilities of the Principal and Test Coordinator

1. **Before testing, review your plans for maintaining test security with your superintendent so that the superintendent is comfortable with the procedures in the school building.**
 - As part of your review, your superintendent may ask you to use the optional Superintendent's Assurance of Proper Test Administration form at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms to document your preparations. (A form is not required but the review is.)
 - The superintendent may assign another district employee (e.g., a district test coordinator) to be the liaison between schools and the central office. Districts are encouraged to take a hands-on approach to MCAS testing, to provide assistance and coordination (especially for new principals), and to visit schools and observe testing firsthand.
2. **Authorize specific staff members to serve as test administrators, and train them to properly administer MCAS tests. Designate other staff members for specific roles, as needed (e.g., hallway or restroom monitors, technology coordinators) and train them in MCAS security requirements.**
 - Before the training session, distribute
 - › a copy of the appropriate TAM to every test administrator, and
 - › a copy of the test security requirements to all school staff members who have access to secure materials (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest).
 - Document that all test administrators have received TAMs and that school staff members who have access to secure materials have received the test security requirements (see the sample form at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms).
 - Train test administrators prior to each test administration (i.e., November retests and February High School Science tests). See "Training Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members" on page 28 for more information about training.
 - For test administrators who provide accommodations to students with disabilities or English learners (EL students), provide training in the administration of accommodations in accordance with Appendix C and the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility).
3. **Instruct students in MCAS test security requirements.**
 - Students' test results may be invalidated if they engage in any of the following activities during a test session (including after submitting their tests, during a break, or during the transition to a test completion area):
 - › duplicating any portion of secure test content
 - › accessing prohibited materials such as cell phones or other electronic devices (see lists in "Materials PROHIBITED during Testing" on page 21) for any purpose, including accessing the internet
 - › communicating with other students (e.g., talking, whispering, writing notes)
 - › looking at any other student's booklet or computer screen
 - › asking for or receiving help from anyone

MCAS Test Security Requirements

- › providing help to another student
 - › consulting notes, books, or instructional materials during testing
 - Students' test results may also be invalidated if they discuss secure test content or their responses to questions with anyone, including teachers, with the exception of reporting a concern about a test question to their test administrator.
- 4. Develop local policies and procedures to ensure proper test security at all times.**
 - Schedule tests to avoid conflicts with lunch (see "Scheduling Test Sessions" on page 22 for more information).
 - Ensure that tests are administered during the prescribed administration window.
 - Ensure that hallways are properly monitored during testing so that students are supervised at all times when they leave testing rooms (e.g., to use the restroom or transition to a test completion room).
 - 5. Keep secure MCAS materials in locked storage when MCAS tests are not being administered.**
 - Account for all secure materials at the end of each test session and keep them in the locked storage area when not in use.
 - Restrict access to the locked storage area to a small number of school staff members who need access.
 - 6. Monitor printing, distribution, and collection of materials for testing.**
 - Student logins must be printed, securely distributed before testing, and collected after testing.
 - Internal tracking forms must be used to maintain the chain of custody of secure materials.
 - Used scratch paper must be accounted for and tracked during testing.
 - 7. Destroy secure materials after testing.**
 - Student logins, summary pages, and used scratch paper (i.e., written on by students) must be securely destroyed (e.g., shredded) following testing.
 - Used scratch paper must be stored securely until it is shredded. It may not be viewed by school staff members.

B Shared Responsibilities of Principals, Test Coordinators, Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members Authorized to Have Access to Secure Materials

- 1. Receive training in test security requirements and test administration protocols.**
 - Test administrators, test coordinators, and other school staff members authorized to have access to secure materials must attend a school training session. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for a sample form that principals may use to document participation, and see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest for sample training slides that can be used (and adapted) to train test administrators. More information about training can be found in "Training Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members" on page 28.

2. Document the location of secure materials at all times.

- Track secure materials using the sample Secure Materials Internal Tracking Form at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms or a similar document (principals keep these forms on file for three years). See “Establishing a Chain of Custody for Testing Materials” on page 16 for more information about requirements for internal tracking forms.
- The principal/test coordinator and each test administrator must independently count student logins and sign the tracking form before transferring custody of the logins.
- Do not leave student logins, summary pages, or other secure MCAS materials unattended at any time unless they are locked in the secure storage area.
- Testing materials should be returned to the principal or test coordinator immediately following the end of the test session.

3. Ensure the security of testing rooms.

- Do not allow unauthorized persons to enter the testing room. This includes parents, researchers, reporters, students not scheduled to be testing at the time, and any school staff members (including teachers) not assigned to the room as test administrators.
- School administrators (including the test coordinator even if they do not have a formal administrative role at the school), district staff, and DESE observers may enter testing rooms to monitor and observe testing procedures.
- Technology staff may enter testing rooms to troubleshoot problems with computer-based testing, but are not permitted to photograph or otherwise duplicate secure test content onscreen.
- See “Ensuring Appropriate Testing Spaces” on page 26 for more information about setting up appropriate and secure testing spaces.

4. Ensure the security of test content.

- Do not discuss or in any way reveal the contents of test questions or student responses to test questions before, during, or after test administration. Because MCAS test questions are secure and confidential until DESE releases them publicly, school staff members should not discuss or review test questions with students or adults even after testing has been completed, with the exception of reporting a student’s concern about a test question to DESE.
- Do not duplicate any secure test content, including but not limited to audiotaping, videotaping, photographing, photocopying, typing, or copying by hand.
- Do not remove testing materials from the school.¹
- Do not allow scratch paper to be retained, discarded, or otherwise removed by students.
- Be sure that student logins, summary pages, and used scratch paper have been securely destroyed after testing (this step is done by the principal or test coordinator).
- Do not allow students access to secure test questions prior to testing.
- Do not read or view any secure test content or student responses (except when administering certain accommodations listed in Appendix C).

¹ The only exception is for principals who receive prior written permission from DESE to test a student in an alternate setting. Alternate setting requests must be resubmitted to DESE for approval for each test administration, even if approved for a previous administration.

MCAS Test Security Requirements

C Responsibilities of Test Administrators

1. Receive training from the principal or test coordinator in how to administer MCAS tests.

- Review the TAMs and all relevant test security requirements before administering test sessions.
- Attend the training session led by the principal or test coordinator before each test administration (i.e., November retests and February High School Science tests).
See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for a sample form that principals may use to document participation in training and receipt of TAMs.
- Understand and follow the protocols related to administering tests to students with disabilities and EL students (if applicable), and protocols related to administering accessibility features.

2. Administer all tests according to appropriate protocols.

- Administer tests during the prescribed testing window.
- Follow the directions and read the scripts in the TAMs (and in any subsequent updates provided to principals by DESE) verbatim to students.
- Remove or cover any classroom displays that provide information related to the content being assessed or to test-taking strategies (see “Materials That Must Be Covered/Removed” on page 26).
- Provide students with all required test materials as listed in the TAMs.
- Prevent the use of prohibited materials (see “Materials PROHIBITED during Testing” on page 21 for lists of required/permitted and prohibited materials). Note that results may be invalidated for students who use cell phones or other electronic devices during a test session, including after submitting their tests, during a break, and during the transition to a test completion area.
- Return all testing materials to the secure central storage area immediately following each test session.
- A test administrator may view students’ tests onscreen only for the purpose of reading aloud selected words during the high school Science tests or the Mathematics retest as part of Universal Accessibility Feature 11 (UF11), or in order to assist a student who is having difficulty with the computer interface. See Part II, section D of the CBT TAM for more information about assisting students with the computer interface.
- Students must work only on the test session being administered, and test administrators may not provide session access codes for a session other than the one being administered.

3. Focus full attention on the testing environment at all times.

- Monitor the testing process by circulating around the room frequently. When not circulating around the room, test administrators should maintain a clear view of the students and keep their attention focused on them.
- Ensure that students are not left unsupervised during testing, including during breaks and during transitions to test completion locations.

4. Ensure that students provide answers that are strictly their own and do not participate in any form of cheating.

- Students must not
 - › copy answers from anyone else
 - › use notes, books, extra reference sheets, or any kind of class materials
 - › write notes to, or talk to other students
 - › provide help or answers to any other student
 - › ask for or receive help from anyone else in answering the questions
 - › access cell phones or other electronic devices other than their testing device
 - › access any applications other than the MCAS Student Kiosk during testing

5. Do not give students any assistance or make suggestions for responding to any test question.

- Test administrators must not coach students during testing or alter or interfere with students' responses in any way. Examples of coaching include
 - › providing answers to a student
 - › indicating that a student has answered a question incorrectly or left a question blank
 - › indicating that a student has bookmarked or skipped questions
 - › defining words or providing synonyms
 - › spelling words
 - › influencing a student's responses by offering hints, cues, gestures, facial expressions, nods, or changes in voice inflection or body language
 - › monitoring or evaluating whether students are using their scratch paper or using specific testing strategies
 - › altering, explaining, simplifying, or paraphrasing any test question, reading passage, writing prompt, or multiple-choice answer option
 - › providing any manner of assistance that could impact a student's answers, including testing strategies
 - › suggesting that a student write more on a question, check a previous question, or review or reconsider a question
- At any time during a test session, a test administrator may repeat a portion of the TAM script if necessary for clarification.
- Test administrators may remind the entire class to check their work before submitting their tests (the scripts contain language instructing students to do this).
- Statements of encouragement such as "Just do your best" or "Answer it as well as you can" are permitted.

6. Follow proper procedures for administering accommodations to students with disabilities and EL students.

- Ensure that students are only provided accommodations that are listed specifically for use during MCAS testing in an approved IEP or a 504 plan, or that were documented as accommodations for EL students.



MCAS Test Security Requirements

- Follow guidelines on proper provision of MCAS accommodations as prescribed in Appendix C and in the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations*.
- Test administrators for students using certain accommodations must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment prior to their receipt of secure test materials. Principals must keep signed Nondisclosure Acknowledgments in the school files for three years. See “Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms” on page 91 for the list of accommodations this requirement applies to, and see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms and Appendix E of this manual for the MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment.

D Testing Irregularities

Testing irregularities are incidents that represent a deviation from prescribed testing procedures. Testing irregularities may include student impropriety, errors in providing accommodations, educator misconduct, or the mishandling of secure test materials.

1. School Observations

In order to ensure the security and proper administration of the MCAS program, DESE conducts announced and unannounced monitoring visits to schools to observe the procedures followed during test administration. This may include entering testing rooms to observe students and test administrators directly. Principals and test coordinators should be prepared to meet observers upon their arrival and also be available during the observation to answer questions. School staff may contact DESE’s Student Assessment Services Unit at 781-338-3625 to verify the identity of DESE observers.

DESE observers will confirm that all test security requirements are being met, including the following:

- Materials are stored properly.
- Staff have been trained.
- Test administrators are administering tests appropriately.
- The testing environment is secure.

2. Mandatory Reporting of Irregularities by All Staff Members

Principals must contact their superintendent and DESE at 781-338-3625 immediately after an irregularity occurs. Test administrators and other school staff members must contact their principal or superintendent. If any school or district employee with knowledge of a test irregularity has questions about reporting obligations, DESE can be consulted at 781-338-3625. Failure to report irregularities may result in sanctions.

It is recommended that parents/guardians be informed when a student-specific irregularity is reported to DESE.

Before reporting an irregularity to DESE, gather the following information:

- a description of the incident and the date it occurred (be sure to speak to any students and test administrators involved)
- the name(s) of the individual(s) involved in the incident
- the specific test(s) and specific session(s) affected

- copies of documents if needed (e.g., notes that were passed, unauthorized reference materials)
- any accommodations used by the students
- in student-specific reports: the student's name, date of birth, grade, and State-Assigned Student Identifier (SASID)

See "Monitor your school's test administration by conducting the following tasks." on page 47 for information about certain irregularities that do not need to be reported to DESE, but can be addressed locally.

3. Anonymous Reporting of Testing Irregularities

Individuals sometimes contact DESE anonymously to allege that testing irregularities have taken place. These allegations are investigated if sufficient information is provided. Testing irregularities can be reported anonymously in the following ways:

- calling the Student Assessment Services office at 781-338-3625
- emailing information about the irregularity to mcas@mass.gov

4. Investigations into Irregularities

In response to a report of a serious irregularity, DESE may contact the school principal or district superintendent to ask that the school or district conduct a local fact-finding investigation into the alleged irregularity and report back to DESE in writing. DESE may also perform its own independent investigation. Once DESE determines whether an irregularity has taken place, DESE will notify the school and district about any potential consequences which may follow from this determination.

5. Investigations Based on Statewide Data Analysis

In order to ensure the validity of MCAS data and the integrity of the assessment system, DESE performs statewide data analysis on all schools' and districts' MCAS test results. Anomalous results are examined more closely and may be investigated. A school's MCAS test results may be placed temporarily under review until the investigation is concluded.

6. Consequences

Testing irregularities or misconduct may result in any or all of the following:

- delay in the reporting of district, school, or student results
- invalidation of district, school, or student results
- prohibition of school staff members from participating in a future MCAS test administration, with required training from DESE staff prior to administering MCAS tests again
- formal letter of reprimand for licensed educators
- licensure sanctions for licensed educators
- criminal sanctions

Consequences imposed by DESE or law enforcement do not limit a local district's authority to impose its own sanctions up to and including termination.

Part II

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Student Participation

Student Participation

A MCAS Participation Guidelines

Participation guidelines for the November ELA and Mathematics retests and the February High School Science tests are posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest and at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics.

B Participation Requirements for Students Educated in Alternate Settings

1. Home/Hospital Instruction and Other Settings

For the small number of students who are enrolled in a school but are unable to physically attend school, and therefore receive tutoring services from their district, or have been expelled but receive educational services from the district, every effort must be made to administer the MCAS tests to these students if they would like to participate for scholarship purposes or for the Seal of Biliteracy (participation in the fall/winter administrations is not required).

If a student is unable to participate in school but could participate in an alternate setting, school principals may submit a request to test the student in an alternate setting off-site. The request form is available online at massgov.service-now.com/mcasaltsetting.

Principals are encouraged to submit requests at least two weeks prior to testing. Requests must be submitted for approval for each test administration, even if approved for a previous test administration.

2. DYS and Placements Conducting an Extended Evaluation for Students with Disabilities

For the small number of students who are enrolled in a school and are in the temporary custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) or are in a placement conducting an extended evaluation for a student with a disability, every effort must be made to administer the MCAS tests/retests at the student's placement, if the student would like to participate in the winter administrations.

The principal of the sending school is responsible for the following:

- contacting the placement to notify the director of MCAS participation requirements
- confirming that the placement has been established as a site for testing and has a DESE district and school code for MCAS testing purposes (If not, refer the facility's director to the Student Assessment Services Unit at 781-338-3625.)
- informing the placement of which test sessions, if any, the student completed at school
(**Note:** If a student participates in a session twice, the results may be invalidated.)

If a student is removed from school during test administration after participating in a test session, keep records of the student's transfer as part of your school files.

C Participation Guidelines for Students Currently Participating in Post-Concussion “Graduated Reentry Plans”



Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulation 105 CMR 201.010 requires that schools place a student diagnosed with a concussion on a post-concussion graduated reentry plan for academic and extracurricular activities. The graduated reentry plan must also document how the student will participate in MCAS testing.

For more information about the participation of students diagnosed with concussions, refer to the Guidelines for Participation in MCAS of Students Diagnosed with Concussions at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility/concussions.html.

D Participation Guidelines for Students with an Injury to their Hand or Arm at the Time of Testing



For students with a disability such as a broken bone in their hand or arm, the school must initiate the development of a 504 plan if the students will require the use of a scribe or another accommodation in order to participate in MCAS testing; a scribe may also be added as an IEP amendment.

Do not contact DESE for permission to initiate the development of the 504 plan unless there is a need for specific guidance on accommodations. Many schools give a scribe accommodation (accommodation A10.1/special access accommodation SAA3.1) or the speech-to-text accommodation (accommodation A10.2/special access accommodation SAA3.2) for students with a recent injury to their hand or arm, and other accommodations may be appropriate as well.

Be sure to ask the district SIMS contact to include the student’s 504 designation in the next SIMS submission.

Part III

.....

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

A Accounting for and Distributing Secure Materials

It is the responsibility of the principal to account for secure testing materials throughout test administration.

This requirement includes accounting for secure student logins and summary pages once they are generated and printed, tracking their location throughout test administration, and ensuring that they are securely destroyed after test administration.

Principals must account for secure materials on internal tracking forms and ensure that used scratch paper is securely destroyed.

1. Printing Student Logins and the Summary Page

Before testing, principals or test coordinators must print out student logins and the summary page from the MCAS Portal (for instructions, refer to Part VI of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Scheduling Tests, Printing Student Logins, and Other Tasks on the Test Scheduling Page* at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal). Student logins provide the usernames and passwords that students will use to sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk. The summary page also provides the session access codes that test administrators will write on the board and that students will need to enter to access their tests.

There are options to print one student login per page, eight per page, or 27 per page via PDF. The PDF will automatically contain the summary page along with the student logins. Student logins can also be exported as a .CSV file. Student logins and the summary page may be printed up to a week in advance of testing if necessary, but for security reasons DESE recommends printing them one to two days in advance.

After printing, principals or test coordinators should cut the pages to separate the logins (if multiple logins per page were printed) and secure them with the summary page until it is time to prepare them for distribution. Student logins and the summary page must be stored in the locked storage area and may not be distributed to test administrators until the day of testing.

2. Establishing a Chain of Custody for Testing Materials

The principal must use the forms listed below to account for and maintain the security of testing materials.

a. Internal Tracking Forms

Principals must establish and follow document tracking procedures so that they can determine at all times the location of materials not in the central secure storage area. Document tracking procedures must also make it possible for principals to trace the movement of materials from the time they are removed from secure storage until they are returned to the locked storage area.

DESE recommends that principals use one of the Secure Materials Internal Tracking Forms at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms. If principals choose to create their own internal tracking form, the following items must be included:

- the specific count of materials at the time of distribution
- the specific count of materials at the time of return
- a place to indicate that used scratch paper has been returned
- a place to indicate that student logins, summary pages, and used scratch paper have been securely destroyed
- signature areas for the test administrator and the test coordinator to sign the form

Test administrators and the test coordinator should independently count materials and sign the internal tracking form before transferring custody of secure materials. Signature stamps may not be used to sign internal tracking forms.

Immediately investigate any irregularity in the use of tracking documents or in the information recorded on them. Call DESE immediately at 781-338-3625 if any situation occurs that could compromise test security.

b. Principal's Certification of Proper Test Administration

The purpose of the PCPA is for the principal to certify that test administration and security protocols described in this manual were followed.

There is one PCPA to complete at the end of each administration (i.e., a PCPA for the November retests and a PCPA for the February High School Science tests).

For instructions to complete the PCPA, see step 4 on page 50, and the certification statements on the PCPA can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms.

While the principal may designate an individual to assist with many other test administration tasks, the PCPA may not be completed by a designee. **The principal must complete the PCPA and is responsible for all information submitted on the form.**

B Materials Required, Permitted, and Prohibited during Testing

1. Materials for Test Administrator Use

- computers for test administrators

Test administrators may need to view the following in the MCAS Portal: classes, students, student test status, and scheduled tests (including form assignments for accommodations). They also may need to access the proctor password, session access codes, and student logins. Schools and districts may decide whether to assign these tasks to test administrators or to other staff.

For the Human Read-Aloud and Human Signer accommodations, schools may decide whether test administrators will read over the student's shoulder or will sign in to (and read from) their own computer using a test administrator login.

- MCAS summary page

The summary page is the first page of the PDF that is created when student logins are downloaded in the MCAS Portal. It contains the username and password for each student and a list of the accommodations that students were assigned. The summary page also contains the session access codes that the test administrator will provide in order for students to sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk.

- A test administrator login is necessary if a test administrator will be using their own computer to read aloud or sign the test to students with accommodations A5, A6.1, SAA1.2, SAA2, or EL3.2. (See "Setting up Human Read-Aloud/Human Signer Sessions with Test Administrator Logins" on page 105 for more information about test administrator logins.)



MCAS Test Administration Protocols

- cell phones (permitted)

Cell phones may be used by test administrators for test administration-related purposes such as communicating with the test coordinator or school administration. At no time should test administrators be using cell phones for any purpose unrelated to testing, or in any way that distracts them from focusing their full attention on the testing room.

2. Materials REQUIRED for Student Use

The following materials **must be provided for student use** during testing:

- devices for testing that meet technical specifications
(mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup)

Note: Newer iPads can run the iTester application (which is how MCAS is accessed on iPads), but there are known presentation issues with test content while using iPads (e.g., less room to view onscreen content, especially when the software keyboard is activated). DESE strongly recommends using wired external keyboards for tablets whenever possible, to ensure equitable access to test content, particularly if keyboards are used during instruction and when writing essays.

- scratch paper
 - Test administrators must supply at least one sheet of unused scratch paper (blank, lined, or graph) for each student for each test session.
 - Students can request more scratch paper, if needed. Test administrators may provide up to three pages at one time. If students need additional pages beyond three, they will need to turn in used scratch paper. Upon request, students may view the pages they already turned in, as long as they only have three pages at one time.
 - Test administrators are responsible for collecting all used scratch paper to be securely destroyed (e.g., shredded) after test administration by the principal or test coordinator.
 - Schools may reuse scratch paper if the paper is completely blank.
 - Scratch paper that has been written on during Session 1 of a test may not be used in Session 2; students will need new paper.
- writing instruments for use on the scratch paper
- student logins

Student logins contain the sign-in information that students need for each test session. There is a separate student login for each subject area test (e.g., one student login for ELA and a separate student login for Mathematics). The same student login is used for both sessions of a test. A sample student login is shown below:

Demo, Student DOB: 3/18/20XX Demo Test Username: 2222222995 Password: 4V6V8F58
--

Before testing, principals or test coordinators must print out student logins, cut the pages to separate the logins (if necessary), and then prepare them for distribution. Because student logins provide access to secure test content, they must be tracked and accounted for using internal tracking forms. See “Accounting for and Distributing Secure Materials” on page 16 and see also the instructions in “Print summary pages and student logins.” on page 46. Student logins may be printed up to a week in advance of testing if necessary, but DESE recommends printing them one to two days in advance.

3. Tools Embedded in the Computer-Based Test for Students

Tools for Mathematics and STE tests are available in the MCAS Student Kiosk as described below. Students have access to multiple calculators for certain tests (it is recommended that students use the calculator that functions most similarly to the one used in regular instruction).

Icon in the Following Tables	Description
	Students will have access to a calculator as follows: • Mathematics Session 2 > a scientific calculator, a TI graphing calculator, and a Desmos graphing calculator • Biology (both sessions) > a scientific calculator • Introductory Physics (both sessions) > a scientific calculator, a TI scientific calculator, and a Desmos scientific calculator
	Calculators are not permitted for Session 1 of the Mathematics retest.
	For Mathematics and Introductory Physics, students can access a reference sheet by clicking on the References icon at the bottom of the screen. Students may also use printed reference sheets (see “Materials PERMITTED for Student Use” on page 20 for more information).
	Students will have access to two rulers (a centimeter ruler and an eighth-inch ruler) for the following tests: • Biology • Introductory Physics

a. Tools Available for Mathematics by Session

Tools Available for Session 1	Tools Available for Session 2
  reference sheet	  scientific/ TI graphing/Desmos reference sheet

b. Tools Available for Biology and Introductory Physics (both sessions)

Subject	Tools Available
Biology	  scientific centimeter ruler and eighth-inch ruler
Introductory Physics	   scientific/ TI scientific/Desmos centimeter ruler and eighth-inch ruler reference sheet

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

4. Materials PERMITTED for Student Use

- pens, pencils, highlighters, and colored pencils for use on scratch paper
- handheld calculators for the specific tests/sessions listed in the previous section for students who prefer them to the online calculator
 - › When using a handheld calculator, each student must have sole access to the calculator, and test administrators must ensure that students do not have access to calculator instructions or formula sheets that accompany calculators. The memory should be cleared from any calculator with the ability to store information (other than basic numbers).
 - › DESE recommends that handheld calculators be equivalent to the ones embedded online (see the previous section). At a minimum, schools should provide a five-function calculator. Students may also use their own handheld calculator, including a graphing calculator. Calculators that access the internet are not allowed.
- printed reference sheets for the Mathematics retest and the Introductory Physics test
 - › DESE strongly recommends providing printed reference sheets for students to use in addition to the one that appears in the MCAS Student Kiosk.
 - › Reference sheets are available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice for schools to download and print (printed copies cannot be ordered).
- equation editor symbol keys for the Mathematics retest and Introductory Physics test
 - › Equation editor symbol keys are needed only for tablets.
 - › These sheets are available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice for schools to download and print (printed copies cannot be ordered).
- equation editor guides for Mathematics and Introductory Physics
 - › These sheets are available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice for schools to print (printed copies cannot be ordered).
- computer mice
- styluses for touch-screen devices, if used in regular instruction
- headphones for students with disabilities using the Text-to-Speech or screen reader accommodations (See Appendix C for more information.)
- authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries for students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs (See Appendix C for more information.)
- concentration aids (e.g., fidget toys, squeeze balls, gum)
 - › At the principal's discretion, students may use concentration aids during testing as long as the use of these aids does not affect the testing environment for other students.

5. Materials PROHIBITED during Testing

Materials listed in section a below are not permitted at any time during test sessions, and materials listed in section b may only be provided to individual students after they have turned in their tests. None of the materials in section a or b are permitted while students are actively testing.

a. Materials PROHIBITED at Any Time during a Test Session

Materials listed in this section **are NOT permitted at any time during test sessions**, including after students turn in their individual tests, during a break, or during the transition to a test completion area. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for a poster that can be displayed during testing showing examples of prohibited materials.

- cell phones (See the following page for more information.)
- other electronic devices
 - › smartwatches
 - › e-book readers or electronic dictionaries
 - › music players for one student's personal use or that of the whole class, earphones, ear buds, or headphones (other than noise blocking headphones; see "DF7" on page 90)
 - › any device capable of taking photographs
 - › game consoles
 - › electronic translators
 - › calculators (except for the tests and sessions listed previously in section 3)
 - › computers or electronic tablets other than the ones being used for testing
 - › any device that provides access to the internet (such as certain calculators and fitness trackers) other than the ones being used for testing
 - › editing devices (e.g., spelling or grammar checkers)
- unauthorized reference sheets (e.g., formula sheets, multiplication grids, conversion tables)
- English-language dictionaries or thesauruses
- accommodation materials unless specified by a student's approved IEP or 504 plan (e.g., graphic organizers)

b. Materials PROHIBITED until after Students Have Completed Testing

Materials listed in this section may be provided to individual students **only AFTER** they have completed testing (i.e., turned in their individual tests), and at the principal's discretion. These materials are prohibited during testing.

- books
- textbooks for subjects other than the one being tested
- notebooks or other notes, as well as flags or sticky notes
- handheld rulers

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

It is the responsibility of the principal and test administrators to ensure that students do not have access to cell phones or other electronic devices during testing. **Results may be invalidated for students who use cell phones or other electronic devices at any time during a test session.**

For more information about reporting cell phone irregularities see “Monitor your school’s test administration by conducting the following tasks.” on page 47.

During the Test Administrators’ Training, the principal will inform test administrators either to read the script in the TAMs instructing students before each test session to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices and place them in their backpacks, or to follow another procedure to ensure that students do not have access to cell phones or other electronic devices.

C Scheduling Test Sessions

1. Testing Dates

New

New for 2025–26, the November retests and the February High School Science tests now have testing windows with recommended testing dates instead of prescribed testing dates. The testing schedule can be found on pages v–vi. All testing, including make-up testing, must be completed by the end of the testing window.

2. Recommended Testing Times

All MCAS sessions are untimed. However, test sessions have been designed to be completed within the following recommended testing times.

Subject	Sessions	Recommended Time per Session
ELA	Session 1	2½ hours
	Session 2	1½ to 2 hours
Mathematics	Sessions 1 and 2	1½ to 2 hours
Biology and Introductory Physics	Sessions 1 and 2	1½ hours

It is important for all testing to occur during regular school days and to begin at the start of the regular school day, to ensure similar testing conditions in schools across the state and to ensure that all students are afforded an equal opportunity to benefit from untimed tests.

For information on breaks see “Breaks and Lunch” on page 23.

3. Guidance on Test Dates and Holiday Observances

Principals should be aware that state and federal laws require schools to make reasonable accommodations for the religious needs of students and employees in observance of holy days. Students who are absent from school for a religious observance should participate in a make-up session as soon after the regularly administered session as possible. Please see the memo at www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=27281.

4. Availability of MCAS Student Kiosk and Requesting to Test Outside of Regular Hours

In order to maintain the security of the testing system, the MCAS Student Kiosk will be available only during the test administration windows listed on pages v–vi, and during regular school hours, between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.

If a school would like to request permission to conduct testing outside of these hours (e.g., an evening high school that will begin testing after 4:00 p.m.), the principal must email mcas@mass.gov. Requests should be submitted **two weeks prior to testing**. The email should include the following information:

- school and district name
- school and district code
- grade(s)
- specific days/times that the school would be testing
- reason for request
- class name(s), or indicate whether the entire school would need the alternate schedule

5. Test Completion

Students who require time beyond the regularly scheduled test session may take it, as long as they are working productively. To that end, test administrators read scripts in the TAMs to guide students through the test session and inform them of the time available. Students may be moved to another location to finish testing but must be supervised at all times during the transition.

If a school is administering more than one test session on the same day, any students who have not completed the first test session by the time that the class begins the next test session must finish working in the first test session before beginning the next one. The next test session can be administered in a separate setting from the regularly administered one.

6. Same-Day Requirement

No test session may extend beyond the end of the regular school day, and any individual test session must be completed on the same day on which it begins. See “Procedures for Students Who Become Ill During a Test Session or Experience a Technology Failure” on page 24 for the two exceptions to this policy.

The scripts in the TAMs that are read aloud throughout the session will help remind students how much time they have, so extra time should not generally be needed beyond the end of a regular school day. However, a principal may provide students with a **maximum** of 15 additional minutes to review and complete their work, provided that

- the students request the additional time themselves;
- transportation is arranged if necessary (e.g., the school bus is held for the student, the student’s parent/guardian is contacted); and
- a test administrator stays with the students until the end of the allotted time.

If testing must occur on an “early release” day, arrangements must be made for test administrators to stay with students who have not finished their work until the time at which school would end on a regular school day.

7. Breaks and Lunch

Extended breaks may not be scheduled in the middle of a test session. DESE recommends that students be provided snacks, drinks, and the opportunity to use the restroom before the beginning of the test session. However, students are permitted to use the restroom one student per room at a time during the test session. **Students must be supervised at all times between the testing room and the restroom, as well as any other time they are out of the testing room.**

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

Principals should try to schedule tests to avoid conflicts with lunch; however, if a lunch break is required during testing, test materials must be secured and students must be escorted to the lunchroom, instructed that they may not have conversations and that they still may not access any prohibited materials, **sufficiently monitored to prevent discussion of test questions during the entire lunch period**, and escorted back to the testing location.

DESE recommends that students pause their tests during a lunch break (by clicking the **Pause/Exit** button and then clicking **Pause Test**).

Schools may plan for one short, supervised break (3–5 minutes) to be given at each test administrator’s discretion approximately halfway through each session. Test administrators must maintain security during the break (e.g., students may not have conversations). Schools may also consider providing designated accessibility features (DFs), which are available to all students, such as DF3 (“Frequent Breaks”).

Entering the Proctor Password

If students’ tests are paused for more than 60 minutes or they are exited from the test (e.g., signing out of the Kiosk, computer shutdown) for more than 60 minutes, then it will be necessary to enter the proctor password to sign back in to the test (in addition to their username, password, and the session access code). Also, notes entered in the notepad and any highlights made by a student with the highlighter tool will be lost if a student pauses a test for more than 60 minutes. See “Using the Proctor Password” on page 57 for more information, including instructions on where to find the proctor password in the MCAS Portal and how it should be used.

8. Concurrent Administration Expectation

Each test session must be administered simultaneously to all students taking that particular test in your school, with the following exceptions:

- make-up testing for students who were absent on scheduled testing days
- testing for students who receive DF10 (Specific Time of Day) or DF3 (Frequent Breaks)

9. Test Session Limitations

It is recommended that students take no more than two make-up test sessions on a single day.

10. Procedures for Students Who Become Ill During a Test Session or Experience a Technology Failure

If a student becomes ill during testing or a student experiences a technology failure and cannot complete the session that day, the school may allow the student to complete the session on another day. The student should be instructed not to discuss the test with anyone, and the school should provide a closely monitored make-up session, during which the student may complete the test, but may not return to any questions that were previously answered.

11. Procedures for Make-Up Testing

Students who are absent on the scheduled testing date for any reason (including illness or other medical condition) should be scheduled for make-up testing when they return to school. Make-up tests may be administered at any time after the scheduled testing date and before the end of the test administration window (see pages v–vi for dates). Please call DESE at 781-338-3625 regarding exceptional circumstances related to make-up testing.

Any students who are absent for Session 1 of a test should take Session 2 according to the school's administration schedule and then take Session 1 during the make-up period.

See Part IV, Section H, steps 5 and 6 on pages 48–49 for more information about make-up sessions, and see Appendix B of the CBT TAM for detailed instructions.

12. Test Administration Interruptions

Circumstances over which you have no control (e.g., power failures) may interrupt testing. The TAMs include specific instructions for test administrators to follow if an interruption occurs. When normal conditions are restored, test administrators should resume testing. No interruption should reduce the total amount of time that students are given to complete the interrupted test session. Principals must report any major disruptions to DESE by calling 781-338-3625.

Technology issues during testing that cannot be resolved quickly by troubleshooting (see Appendix A), including any large technology failure that affects a classroom or more, should be immediately reported to the MCAS Service Center and to DESE.

If possible during an interruption, the test administrator should collect the student logins and instruct the students to pause the test (by clicking the **Pause/Exit** button and then clicking **Pause Test**).

Principals must also provide guidance to test administrators on handling regular interruptions, such as students requesting to use the restroom or to go to the nurse's office. Students may not remove secure materials from the room. Test administrators must maintain test security according to the requirements in Part I of this manual while any student is out of the room.

Entering the Proctor Password

If students' tests are paused for more than 60 minutes or they are exited from the test (e.g., signing out of the Kiosk, computer shuts down) for more than 60 minutes, then it will be necessary to enter the proctor password to sign back in to the test (in addition to their username, password, and the session access code). See "Using the Proctor Password" on page 57 for more information, including instructions on where to find the proctor password in the MCAS Portal and how it should be used.

13. Severe Weather

If severe weather forces the closure of a school during the test administration window, on the day it reopens the school should administer the test session scheduled for that day and make up the missed session(s) later.

If severe weather forces a delayed opening on a scheduled test administration date, the principal should contact DESE to discuss whether testing should be rescheduled.

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

D Ensuring Appropriate Testing Spaces

It is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that testing spaces are free from noise and distractions and are adequately lit, ventilated, and furnished so that students can work comfortably and without disruption. Principals must ensure that each student assigned to the testing space will have adequate work space and be sufficiently separated from other students to support a secure testing environment.

Designated Accessibility Features (DFs) give principals the flexibility to test students in appropriate groups and testing spaces other than regular classrooms. Principals must identify appropriate testing spaces for students using DFs that require changes in the test setting, presentation, or mode of response. See Appendix C of this manual for details on the DFs available to all students.

DESE recommends against the use of large, open areas (e.g., cafeterias) because of the difficulty of monitoring large groups of students and because of the disruption that can be caused by many students being dismissed as they complete testing. If a school chooses to use such an area, it should ensure that enough test administrators are assigned to maintain the test-administrator-to-student ratio of a typical classroom. In addition, students who finish early should not be dismissed until the scheduled testing time has elapsed to minimize disruption to those students still testing.

Different subjects (e.g., ELA and Mathematics, Biology and Introductory Physics) should not be tested together in the same room, including for make-up testing. Schools should not group together students doing computer-based testing and any students doing paper-based testing, including for make-up testing.

Each testing room should have a working clock so that students can plan their work. There is no clock or timer in the MCAS Student Kiosk.

Materials That Must Be Covered/Removed

Prior to testing, principals must verify that test administrators have covered or removed from the testing spaces all materials containing content in the subject areas being tested, including any materials that might help students answer test questions.

Examples of materials that must be covered or removed include posters, maps, charts, graphic organizers, reading and writing strategies, word lists, number lines, multiplication tables, definitions, writing formulas, and mathematical formulas/theorems. It is not necessary to cover or remove calendars, posters displaying the alphabet or consonant blends, or posters displaying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other Security Considerations

DESE suggests that schools use the following seating arrangements as strategies to create a secure environment:

- Seat students at least two seats away from each other.
- Seat students in every other row.
- Seat students at opposite ends of a long lab table.

Physical barriers can also be used:

- privacy screens on computer monitors
- tri-fold display boards around testing devices
- cardboard or heavy cardstock placed on desks or taped to the sides of monitors to create a barrier

Regardless of how testing rooms are arranged, students must not be able to view any screen but their own.

Note that using physical barriers to shield students from each other can also shield them from test administrators, making it more difficult to see what students are doing (e.g., using notes or a cell phone). Thus, it is especially important that test administrators circulate frequently throughout the room and monitor what students are doing when physical barriers are used.

E Preparing the Test Administration Team

1. Qualified Test Administrators

It is the responsibility of the principal to authorize individuals to serve as test administrators. Test administrators' responsibilities are described in the TAMs.

To the extent possible, test administrators should be licensed classroom teachers working in the school. When necessary, other education professionals (such as administrators) employed by the school or district may be authorized to serve as test administrators.

To assist in maintaining security, DESE recommends that whenever possible, principals assign two test administrators per testing space. This provides better coverage of the room and allows one test administrator to escort students to the restroom if needed.

The principal must authorize individuals to serve as test administrators for students being tested with accommodations. Test administrators will need to follow instructions in the TAMs, including the appendices, for administering specific accommodations.



2. Technology Staff

The principal should authorize technology staff to assist with set-up prior to testing and troubleshooting during test administration. See Appendix A for the tasks the technology coordinator should complete.



3. Other School Staff Members

The principal may want to authorize other school staff members, such as a test coordinator, to assist with the distribution and return of secure materials.

Also, DESE suggests that principals assign monitors for hallways, restrooms, and other areas to ensure a secure testing environment.

Anyone authorized to have access to secure test materials must be employed by the school or district and follow the requirements in Part I of this manual. Once test administrators and other school staff are authorized, principals must train them in test security requirements as well as the logistics that will be followed at the school, including how to contact the principal or test coordinator during testing if necessary.

F Training Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members

1. Training in Test Security and Test Administration Protocols

Before test administration, the principal or test coordinator must meet with test administrators, technology staff, and other staff members authorized to have access to secure materials to explain the test security protocols and procedures that will be followed at the school. Principals also need to meet with the technology coordinator to discuss topics listed in this section and in Appendix A.

DESE has outlined topics for the test administrator training session in sample training slides posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest and www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics. Use of the slides is optional, but principals are expected to address the topics covered in the slides.

During the training session, the principal or test coordinator will need to do the following:

- describe the test security requirements and test administrator protocols contained in Part I and Part III of this manual as well as the TAMs
- describe local procedures for meeting test security and administration protocols
- provide an orientation to the major tasks that will be completed during test administration
- review the schedule for testing, including the scheduled length of test sessions
- emphasize that all test administrators must read and familiarize themselves with the appropriate TAM before administering MCAS tests
- answer any questions that test administrators have about the school's procedures or about MCAS protocols
- inform test administrators about resources they can use to find answers to any questions they have after the training

The TAMs contain optional scripts as described below. Test administrators must be informed at the training session about the decisions that have been made regarding these scripts such as

- whether test administrators will read the recommended script instructing students to put away cell phones and other electronic devices in their backpacks at the side of the room or a locally developed script will be used instead
- whether test administrators will read the scripts for students going to a supervised lunch, students moving to a test completion room, and students going to the restroom

Inform test administrators about the decisions you have made regarding other procedures such as

- whether students who arrive late for testing will be read the scripts quietly in the room, read the scripts outside the room, or scheduled for make-up testing
- whether students will be provided with printed reference sheets during Mathematics and Introductory Physics testing in addition to the version available in the MCAS Student Kiosk (recommended)
- how students will be supervised when they are out of the testing room, e.g., for a restroom break (hallway monitors, restroom monitors, escorts, etc.)
- how students who need more time beyond the scheduled test session will be handled (e.g., will they be moved to a test completion room?)

- whether student logins will be collected from students after they sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk, or students will retain their student logins until the end of the session
- how to contact the school administration if there are any problems during testing
- whether test administrators are expected to come to the central storage area to pick up testing materials or testing materials will be delivered to them
- for PBT, when student ID labels will be applied to booklets, and by whom
- whether students who finish early may be dismissed or must wait until the end of the scheduled session

Reporting a Concern about a Test Question

Inform test administrators of the following procedures if a student reports a concern about a test question. Test administrators should note the form number, question number, and nature of the student's concern, and report this information to the principal or test coordinator, who should then call DESE for guidance. Students and school staff should refrain from discussing secure test content except as needed to report the issue. School staff may not write down the question or answer choices but may write down the form number, question number, and nature of the concern to report it to DESE.



2. Training for Test Administrators Who Will Administer Accommodations

Test administrators who will administer accommodations to students with disabilities or EL students should receive additional training at another time to ensure that accommodations are correctly provided. In addition, these test administrators should be familiarized with the differences between instructional accommodations and testing accommodations, especially regarding the prohibition on coaching and assisting students during testing. Test administrators should be familiar with Appendix C of the PAM and should be familiar with the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility).

It is the principal's responsibility to ensure that all test administrators who will be providing accommodations receive adequate training to provide those accommodations correctly.

3. Required Documentation

Schools must document that their test administrators attended a training session and that test administrators received TAMs for the test(s) they will administer. In addition, other school staff members who have access to secure materials must sign an acknowledgment that they received a copy of the test security requirements. A sample form for documenting attendance at training and receipt of the TAM can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms but schools may develop their own forms instead.

Principals must retain the following in their school files for three years: agendas, sign-in sheets, and any other relevant documentation to demonstrate that test administrators and other school staff members who have access to secure materials were properly trained.

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms

Test administrators who have been assigned to administer certain accommodations (see “Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms” on page 91) are required to sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment form before administering the test. The training session may be a convenient time to have these test administrators sign the form, but it can be done any time before testing. Nondisclosure forms must be signed every year, but test administrators must only sign the form once each administration (e.g., someone who signs the form before administering ELA retests in November does not need to sign another form before administering Mathematics retests). The nondisclosure acknowledgment form can be found in Appendix E of this manual and at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms.

4. Training in Using the MCAS Portal

Schools should view the online training modules posted at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-modules and should consult the MCAS Portal training guides posted at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal. In addition, schools can register for training webinars at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/training.html. Recordings of the training webinars will be available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-webinars.

G Preparing Students for Testing

1. Students’ Responsibilities during Testing

To inform students about their responsibilities during testing and the reasons that results may be invalidated, principals may choose to ask students to read and sign a form to acknowledge that they understand their responsibilities. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for an optional sample form for students to sign, as well as an optional sample letter that can be used to notify parents/guardians. If these materials are used, principals should retain them in the school’s test administration files.

2. Meetings

a. General Meeting with Students

Feedback from principals and teachers indicates that a serious yet supportive testing environment has a positive impact on student performance. DESE recommends that the principal or test administrators meet with students before each test administration window to give them information about testing procedures at the school, including the following topics.

The Testing Schedule and Recommended Testing Times

- Students will need to come to school on the scheduled test days.
- Most students should be able to finish within the suggested time limits, but they will be allowed additional time (to the end of the school day, if necessary) to finish their work if they are working productively.

Preparing for the Tests

- Students should read questions carefully, be thorough in their responses, and answer all parts of multi-part questions. They should also try their best, and answer all the questions on the test.

- Their test administrator will be able to assist with the computer interface, and can read aloud a word during Mathematics and Science testing at their request (UF11), but the test administrator cannot give them any help or answer any question related to test content.

CBT Tools and Navigation

- Students will become familiar with the tools available to them and with how to navigate through the test by taking practice tests and the student tutorial.
- For each ELA and Science (but not Mathematics) response, there is a counter at the bottom of the response box. As students type, the number will count down to show how many more characters they can type. A character is counted as any key that is typed (e.g., letters, numbers, or punctuation, excluding spaces).
- Students should be aware that they have limited space for their constructed-responses and essays for ELA and Science, just as they would in a paper-based test.
 - › ELA: 5,000 characters for essays (equivalent to two hand-written pages)
 - › Science: 1,500 characters
- For all subject area tests, students may use the notepad in the MCAS Student Kiosk to take notes in addition to using their scratch paper. The notepad can be resized and if a student's writing fills the box, a scroll bar will appear to allow the student to continue typing. Text entered into the notepad will persist for all test questions based on the same information (e.g., an ELA reading passage or a science module). This allows students to take notes while first reading the information, and still access those notes when answering subsequent test questions for that shared material. For all other questions, text entered into the notepad will not carry over from one question to the next. Students should only use the notepad for taking notes and **must enter all their actual responses in the response boxes**.
- **NOTE:** All notepad text will be lost if a student pauses a test for more than 60 minutes, signs out of a test, turns in a test, or if there is a circumstance causing the kiosk to abruptly close (e.g., the device shutting down due to low battery).
- To highlight text, students must click the highlighter tool, select a highlighter color (yellow, pink, purple, or green) and then drag the cursor over the text. Highlighting will remain on a test question even if a student moves on to other questions. Highlighting on a passage will persist on that passage as students move from question to question so students can refer to the highlighting on any test question connected to that shared passage. **NOTE:** All highlights will be lost if a student pauses a test for more than 60 minutes, signs out of a test, submits a test, or if there is a circumstance that abruptly closes the kiosk (e.g., the device shutting down due to low battery).
- There is no ability to copy text from an ELA passage or Science module to paste into a response box. Students must fully type their responses.
- Certain words during the ELA test will have a dotted line above and below them that students may select to display a definition (pop-up glossary feature).
- For questions with left and right panels, students will see an arrow icon that allows them to expand either the left panel or the right panel to fill the whole screen. Clicking the same button will return the screen to the original view.

MCAS Test Administration Protocols

Resources Available during Testing

- Students will have scratch paper available to them, up to three pages at one time (they can turn in used pages to get more if they need it).
- Students may use calculators and reference sheets on certain tests. Any other reference sheets, notes, or study guides are prohibited and may lead to test invalidation, with the exception of approved materials for students with disabilities using certain accommodations. See “Materials Required, Permitted, and Prohibited during Testing” on page 17.

Testing Irregularities and Invalidations

- Students’ test results may be invalidated if they engage in any of the following activities during a test session (including after submitting their tests, during a break, or during the transition to a test completion area):
 - › duplicating any portion of secure test content
 - › accessing prohibited materials such as cell phones or other electronic devices (see lists in “Materials PROHIBITED during Testing” on page 21) for any purpose, including accessing the internet for any purpose other than accessing the MCAS Student Kiosk
 - › communicating with other students (e.g., talking, whispering, writing notes)
 - › looking at any other student’s computer screen
 - › consulting notes, books, or instructional materials during testing
- To avoid testing irregularities, students may bring a book to read in case they finish their test early. Students should be informed of the options they have for appropriate activities after testing (see “Materials PROHIBITED until after Students Have Completed Testing” on page 21 for the list of materials students may use after completing their tests).

b. Meeting with EL Students

It is important to communicate the following to EL students:

- They will be participating in tests that they may find difficult because they are still learning English. Students should answer as many questions as they can, and should let their test administrator know when they can no longer complete the test.
- Students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs may use authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries or other EL accommodations (see Appendix C for more information).
- Students taking the Spanish/English edition of the Mathematics retest, Biology test, or Introductory Physics test may respond to constructed-response questions in either English or Spanish.
- Schools should ensure that EL students are familiar with the bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries that will be available to them during MCAS testing, and that students have some practice using them in advance of testing.



c. Meeting with Parents/Guardians

In addition to student meetings, principals are encouraged to share information with parents/guardians before testing about the following topics:

- resources from DESE about MCAS tests that are available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents
- the ways that the school will prepare their child for testing
- how parents/guardians can support their child
- the days that their child will be testing
- participation guidelines
- test security requirements and materials their child will not be permitted to have during testing (e.g., students will not be permitted to contact parents/guardians via cell phone during test sessions, even after submitting their tests)
- how to reach their child during testing if necessary (parents/guardians should not text or call their children during testing)

DESE suggests sharing information in regular parent newsletters.

3. Student Tutorial and Practice Tests

DESE strongly encourages schools to have all students view the tutorial and take practice tests to familiarize themselves with the testing platform. The tutorial will show students how to navigate the MCAS Student Kiosk, work with the tools that are available during testing, and answer technology-enhanced test questions. Practice tests provide the opportunity to practice with the test content as well as the computer interface.

Test administrators are expected to go through the tutorial themselves to become familiar with the MCAS Student Kiosk and its features. See additional information at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice.

4. Additional Resources to Prepare Students for Testing

In addition to the practice tests, DESE recommends that schools familiarize students with the following resources, which are available in the MCAS Resource Center at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice:

- blank CBT response boxes for ELA, Biology, and Physics, which allow students to practice answering constructed-response and essay questions (Click on **Practice Tests**, and then click on the subject area, and then the grade.)
- equation editor and calculator practice tool for Mathematics and Introductory Physics
- reference sheets for Mathematics and Introductory Physics
- equation editor guide and symbol key documents
 - › Students taking the Mathematics retest or Introductory Physics test on desktop or laptop computers will be able to hover their pointer over the symbols in the equation editor for a brief explanation of the symbol. Students not using a desktop or laptop computer may not be able to do this, so the equation editor symbol key document is particularly useful for them.

Part IV

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Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

Checklist of Tasks

Use the following checklist of tasks to keep track of responsibilities during MCAS testing during suggested timeframes. Some of the tasks in the checklist are described in other documents, but most are described in the Tasks section that follows. You may use the “Completed?” column to check off when each task has been completed; you may also want to use the column to write in the names of staff who will be helping with each of the tasks.

Task Reference	Task Overview	Completed?
A. Ongoing/Tasks to Complete Beginning in Fall 2025		
1	Familiarize yourself with resources: Student Assessment Updates, the test designs, and CBT components.	
2	Provide DESE with contact information.	
3	Update student information in SIMS.	
4	Create and update MCAS Portal user accounts for district test coordinators, school test coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators as needed.	
5	 Download the MCAS Student Kiosk to testing devices and perform Site Readiness.	
B. Tasks to Complete One to Two Months BEFORE Test Administration		
1	 Meet with the technology coordinator and establish a plan to ensure that the appropriate technology preparations are made.	
2	Determine which students should participate in the fall and winter administrations.	
3	Complete the Student Registration process.	
C. Tasks to Complete Three to Six Weeks BEFORE Test Administration		
1, 2	Develop a test security plan and review it with your superintendent.	
3	 Determine which accessibility features and accommodations students will need.	
4	Identify the individuals who will serve as test administrators and other school staff members who will have access to secure materials.	
5	Update user roles in the MCAS Portal as needed.	
6	Establish the school’s testing schedule.	
7	Communicate the testing schedule and other important information to the school community, including parents/guardians.	
8	Prepare the room assignments for students and test administrators.	
9	Meet with students to provide information about testing.	
10	Administer the student tutorial and practice tests.	

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

Task Reference	Task Overview	Completed?
D. Tasks to Complete At Least Two Weeks BEFORE Test Administration		
1	Ensure that the Student Registration is updated according to the instructions in Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> .	
2	Create classes and assign students to them.	
E. Tasks to Complete Two Weeks BEFORE Test Administration		
1	 Prepare to provide accessibility features and accommodations for testing.	
2	 Submit any requests to test students in an alternate setting.	
3	 Confirm that the technology coordinator has completed necessary preparations for testing.	
F. Tasks to Complete One Week BEFORE Test Administration		
1, 2	Verify receipt of manuals; inventory and store them.	
3, 4	Order additional manuals and download materials if necessary.	
5	Distribute manuals/security requirements, and train staff in test security requirements and test administration protocols.	
6	 Provide additional training to test administrators who will be administering accommodations.	
7	Schedule classes in the MCAS Portal (not available until one week before testing).	
8	 Verify that students using form-dependent accommodations such as Screen Reader Edition (SR), Spanish/English edition, compatible Assistive Technology (AT), Human Read-Aloud, or Human Signer have the correct form assigned to them in the MCAS Portal.	
G. Tasks to Complete Approximately One or Two Days BEFORE Test Administration		
1	Verify that test administrators have covered or removed prohibited materials from the walls of testing rooms.	
2	Print summary pages and student logins.	
3	Prepare additional materials for testing.	
4	 Prepare materials for accommodations.	
H. Tasks to Complete DURING Test Administration		
1	Using your document tracking system, distribute materials for testing.	
2	Monitor test administration.	
3	Manage situations that may occur during testing.	
4	Securely store materials between sessions and after each day of testing.	

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

Task Reference	Task Overview	Completed?
5	Maintain/update the record of test administrators and their students for each test session.	
6	Collect lists of students who were absent for testing and schedule make-up testing for them. Confirm that all students participated.	
7	When test sessions are completed, verify that all secure materials have been returned.	
I. Tasks to Complete AFTER Test Administration		
1	Update student information in the MCAS Portal as needed.	
2	Void any tests created with test administrator logins.	
3	Ask your district SIMS contact to make any necessary updates to SIMS.	
4	Complete the PCPA.	
5	Plan to retain materials listed in the PAM for three years.	
6	Recycle or discard materials listed in the PAM.	
7	Securely destroy materials listed in the PAM.	

A Ongoing/Tasks to Complete Beginning in Fall 2025

1. Familiarize yourself with resources:

- Read the biweekly Student Assessment Update emails throughout the school year for important MCAS program updates.
Principals, MCAS test coordinators, special education directors, and EL program directors automatically receive the Student Assessment Update based on contact information submitted to DESE. See information at the top of the Student Assessment Updates page (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/updates.html) for instructions of how to add another staff member who serves in one of those roles. Others may subscribe by clicking the **Subscribe** link at the bottom of each edition.
- Become familiar with the test designs which are available at the following links:
ELA: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/ela.html?section=testdesign
Math: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/math.html?section=testdesign
Science: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/sci.html?section=testdesign
- Review the components for CBT in Appendix A.

2. Provide DESE with the school's correct contact information to receive important notices via email during test administration.

The steps for updating contact information can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/updates.html.

3. Update student information in SIMS (Student Information Management System).

Since information from SIMS is used for MCAS reporting, it is critical that schools report this information accurately. Your district-level SIMS contact will submit data for the entire district; call your district's contact to confirm the accuracy of your school's data being submitted to SIMS (see page ii for instructions on finding your district's contact).

a. SASIDs

SASIDs are required as part of the Student Registration process. If you do not have a student's SASID (e.g., a student new to Massachusetts), create and assign to the student a 10-digit number starting with "8" (instead of "10"). Call your district SIMS contact with questions on assigning SASIDs.

b. SIMS

November retests

Enrollment data will be based on the June 2025 SIMS submission.

February High School Science Tests

For districts using the School Interoperability Framework (SIF), enrollment data will be extracted approximately one week before the Student Registration window opens. For districts not using SIF, enrollment data will be based on the October 2025 SIMS submission.

4. Create and update MCAS Portal user accounts for district test coordinators, school test coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators.

See Part II of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: MCAS Portal User Management*, available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal. In addition to creating and updating user accounts as needed, test coordinators should deactivate MCAS Portal accounts for staff who will not participate in MCAS test administrations in 2025–26.

5. Download the MCAS Student Kiosk to testing devices and perform Site Readiness.

The *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide* is available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup, along with download links for the MCAS Student Kiosk.



- Access the MCAS Portal to download the updated MCAS Student Kiosk and gather the site readiness credentials.
- After installing the updated MCAS Student Kiosk on all test taking devices, technology staff should conduct the site readiness test using the credentials provided in the MCAS Portal for your organization.
- The site readiness test should be taken on 2–3 devices in each device configuration at your organization. Each site readiness test will take approximately 5–10 minutes.
- Once site readiness is complete, certify site readiness in the MCAS Portal.

If your technology set-up changes between the time you conduct site readiness testing and the time students begin taking the computer-based tests, be sure to conduct site readiness again to verify the changes are still compatible with the MCAS Student Kiosk.

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

B Tasks to Complete One to Two Months BEFORE Test Administration

- 1. Meet with the technology coordinator and establish a plan to ensure that the appropriate technology preparations are made.**

See “Tasks for Technology Coordinators to Complete” on page 54 for the list of tasks that technology coordinators must complete.

- 2. Determine which students should participate in the November retests or the February High School Science tests.**

Detailed participation guidelines can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest and at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics. See also Part II of this manual.

- 3. Complete the Student Registration process.**

See Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration* (mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal) for the steps to complete to register students for testing.

C Tasks to Complete Three to Six Weeks BEFORE Test Administration

- 1. Develop a test security plan for your school.**

- Review MCAS Test Security Requirements (see Part I).
- Establish a tracking system (see sample internal tracking forms posted at (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms), and develop local procedures to ensure that the chain of custody of secure materials is maintained and that students are provided with required materials for testing.
- Designate a central locked area for storage of secure materials: student logins, summary pages, test administrator logins, and used scratch paper.
- Develop procedures so that students do not access prohibited materials such as cell phones (see “Materials Required, Permitted, and Prohibited during Testing” on page 17). Determine whether test administrators will read the recommended script in the TAM instructing students to put their cell phones and other prohibited devices in their bags, or whether other school procedures will be used.
- Begin planning for the number of staff who will need to be involved in test administration, so that there will be appropriate coverage (e.g., monitors for hallways and restrooms, test administrators, substitute test administrators, test administrators for accommodated students).
- Develop a training plan for staff who will be involved in test administration, including test administrators, technology staff, and hallway monitors. Make sure that staff who will be administering accommodations receive additional training so that all accommodations are correctly given.
- Develop a communication plan for students and parents/guardians to inform them about prohibited items during testing as well as the consequences for using them (see the sample, optional form for students and the letter for parents/guardians).

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

2. Review your school's test administration plan with your superintendent.

Review your school's plans for following test security and administration protocols with your superintendent or a designee from the central office. You may be asked to use the sample Superintendent's Assurance of Proper Test Administration form (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms), use a locally developed form, or document the review in another way.

3. Determine which accessibility features and accommodations students will need.

Review IEPs and 504 plans to determine students' accommodation needs. See Appendix C for information on accessibility features and accommodations, and consult the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for more detailed information.



4. Identify the individuals who will serve as test administrators and other school staff members who will have access to secure materials.

See "Preparing the Test Administration Team" on page 27 for more information about authorizing test administrators and other staff member roles during testing (e.g., hallway monitors), as well as technology staff.

5. Update user roles in the MCAS Portal as needed.

Schools should assign user accounts for test administrators and other school staff members as necessary.

Refer to Part II of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: MCAS Portal User Management* at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal.

Continue to update roles throughout the testing window as needed.

6. Establish the school's test administration schedule, and ensure that tests are scheduled within the prescribed testing window.

See "Scheduling Test Sessions" on page 22 for more information about scheduling test sessions.

7. Communicate the school's testing schedule and other information to the school community, (e.g., educators, parents/guardians, students), including the following:

- school procedures during testing
- participation guidelines
- the resources posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents

8. Prepare the room assignments for students and test administrators.

Identify testing spaces and plan strategies to maintain security in each room. See "Ensuring Appropriate Testing Spaces" on page 26 for more information about setting up testing spaces.

Document the rooms to which students and test administrators are assigned, and maintain the record in your school files.

9. Meet with students to review test security requirements and to provide information about the testing experience.

See "Preparing Students for Testing" on page 30 for more information about meeting with students.

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

10. (Strongly recommended) Administer the student tutorial and practice tests, and familiarize students with additional resources.

See “Student Tutorial and Practice Tests” on page 33 for more information about the student tutorial and practice tests.

D Tasks to Complete At Least Two Weeks BEFORE Test Administration

1. Ensure that the Student Registration is updated with any changes since it was first imported.

It is important to make sure that your Student Registration is up to date and reflects your current enrollment. Changes can be made through the MCAS Portal interface or by exporting, updating, and then re-importing the registration file. See the instructions in Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration* for more information.

2. Create classes and assign students to them.

“Classes” are separate groupings in the MCAS Portal of the students who will take a test at the same time and in the same testing location. Individuals with the roles of district test coordinator, school test coordinator, or technology coordinator have the permissions in the MCAS Portal to create classes. See additional information in Part V of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Creating and Managing Classes*.

A class name may contain up to 50 characters. DESE recommends that schools use a naming convention for classes that will help test administrators quickly and easily find the test they are administering, and which includes the following items:

- test subject and grade
- test administrator name
- testing location
- school code

Note that class names in the MCAS Portal must be unique across the state. DESE recommends including the school code in the class name in order to meet this requirement.

In addition, note the following:

- Students taking the Spanish/English edition of a test should be placed in a separate class using only the Spanish/English edition.
- Students with the Human Read-Aloud accommodation should be placed into a class of no more than 5 students, all of whom are assigned the Human Read-Aloud accommodation.
- Students with the Human Signer accommodation should be placed into a class of no more than 5 students, all of whom are assigned the Human Signer accommodation.

For more information on creating classes and scheduling tests, see Part V of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Creating and Managing Classes*.

E Tasks to Complete Two Weeks BEFORE Test Administration

1. **Prepare to provide accessibility features and accommodations for testing, including for students with a recent injury to their arm or hand, and confirm that test administrators understand the specific accommodations they will be providing.**



DESE recommends that schools prepare a list or spreadsheet that staff can refer to that includes students' names, grades, subject area, test administrator name, testing location, and accessibility features and accommodations (including the accessibility or accommodation number and a brief description).

Test administrators for students with disabilities using certain accommodations must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment prior to reviewing secure materials. Principals must keep signed Nondisclosure Acknowledgments in the school files for three years. See "Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms" on page 91 for the list of which accommodations this requirement applies to. See "Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms" on page 30 for more information about the requirements of the form. The MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms and in Appendix E of this manual.

See "Participation Guidelines for Students with an Injury to their Hand or Arm at the Time of Testing" on page 13 for the steps to take for a student with a recent injury to their arm or hand.

2. **Submit any requests to test students in an alternate setting.**

If you have students who cannot be tested at school (students who are not in school for disciplinary or health reasons, students in DYS custody, etc.), you may submit the form to request an alternate setting by going to massgov.service-now.com/mcasaltsetting.



3. **Confirm that the technology coordinator has completed the steps in Appendix A of this manual, and that all devices are prepared for testing.**

Ensure that all devices to be used for testing are charged prior to each test session. Make sure sufficient power cords and power strips are available as well as extra testing devices if needed. Confirm that accessories, such as external keyboards for tablets and headphones (only used for students receiving the Text-to-Speech and Screen Reader accommodations), are available and in working order prior to testing.



Ensure that all students' testing devices have the MCAS Student Kiosk installed. For details, see the *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide*.

F Tasks to Complete One Week BEFORE Test Administration

1. **Verify receipt of test administration manuals.**

Verify receipt of manuals immediately upon their delivery to your school (see pages v–vi for the dates that manuals will arrive). Call the MCAS Service Center if you do not receive materials by this date.

For the Fall/Winter tests, TAMs are being produced as follows:

- **A CBT TAM**, which covers ELA, Mathematics, Biology, and Introductory Physics
- **A PBT TAM**, which covers ELA, Mathematics, Biology, and Introductory Physics

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

2. Inventory your school's shipment of manuals and store them.

- Using your Materials Summary form, inventory your shipment of manuals upon receipt. After the inventory, the form can be stored in school files (there is nothing to complete on the form after testing). There is no need to retain shipping cartons, unless your school is also doing PBT (see Appendix B).
- To inventory the manuals, complete the "Qty Received" column of the Materials Summary according to the "Before Testing" directions on the form.
- Designate an area to store the manuals. You may want to use the secure, locked storage area that you will be using to store student logins when printed.

3. Order additional manuals if necessary.

Schools are shipped one copy of the PAM and also receive one copy of each TAM per 15 students (plus one for each small group with the Human Read-Aloud or Human Signer accommodations identified in the Student Registration).

If your shipment of manuals is not sufficient for your testing needs, complete one of these steps:

- Download copies of the manuals from DESE's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/manual.
- Order additional manuals online at www.mcasservicecenter.com no later than the deadline dates listed on pages v–vi. You will need the Ship Code from your Materials Summary when placing your order.
 - **Note:** Orders will be shipped for receipt on the following business day if the order is received before 12:00 p.m.; orders received after 12:00 p.m. will be shipped for receipt on the second business day.

4. Download administration materials.

Forms and sample materials can be downloaded from www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms. Reference sheets (strongly recommended), equation editor guides, symbol keys, and gridded response guidelines can be downloaded from mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice. See "Materials PERMITTED for Student Use" on page 20 for more information about permitted printed materials.

5. Distribute manuals/security requirements, and train all school staff members authorized to have access to secure materials in test security requirements. Train test administrators, hall monitors, and technology staff in test security requirements and the school's testing procedures (see "Training in Test Security and Test Administration Protocols" on page 28).

- In advance of the training session, distribute TAMs to test administrators so that they can familiarize themselves with the security requirements and administration protocols and come to the session prepared with questions. Distribute a copy of the test security requirements to all school staff members who have access to secure materials. (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest)
- Document that test administrators and school staff members have received the materials listed above. Principals may use the sample form or create their own. (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms)

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

- › At the training session, the principal must describe the test security requirements (see Part I) and confirm that all school staff members understand these requirements. In addition, principals must describe school procedures for implementing the test security requirements and test administration protocols, and familiarize test administrators with the tasks they will be completing. Principals should cover the topics included in the slides available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest and www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics.
- › School staff members must sign in to demonstrate that they attended the school training session (see the sample form at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms; this sample is the same one used to acknowledge that staff received TAMs/test security requirements; schools may use this form or create another or two separate forms).

6. Provide additional training to test administrators administering accommodations.

Test administrators who will be administering accommodations should receive training in the correct administration of their specific accommodations (also see training topics listed in “Training Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members” on page 28). Since student test results can be invalidated due to test administrator errors (e.g., giving the Human Read-Aloud accommodation to a student who should not receive this accommodation), it is critical that test administrators understand the protocols for administering their students’ accommodations.



7. Schedule classes in the MCAS Portal (not available until one week before testing).

Before student logins can be printed, classes must be “scheduled.” Scheduling a class assigns a specific test to the students in the class and generates the student logins and the session access codes that students will need to sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk to take their tests. Scheduling classes becomes available one week before the opening of the test administration window. For instructions, see Part VI of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Scheduling Tests, Printing Student Logins, and Other Tasks on the Test Scheduling Page*.

Note: Students participating in the Spanish/English edition must be scheduled for the Spanish/English test on the Test Scheduling page.

8. Verify that students using form-dependent accommodations have the correct form assigned to them in the MCAS Portal.

Form-dependent accommodations such as Screen Reader Edition (SR), Spanish/English edition, compatible Assistive Technology (AT), Human Read-Aloud, or Human Signer should be checked by following the steps below. (Also be sure that these students have these accommodations listed in their IEPs or 504 plans. Results may be invalidated for students who are given improper accommodations.)



This step is very important because if a student starts a test without the correct form assigned, several additional steps are required to fix the situation, including voiding the student’s current test and assigning a new one.

- To verify form assignment, go to **Test Scheduling**, search for the correct test, and click **View Details/Student Logins**. The form names assigned to each student will be listed there. To verify that accommodations have been set correctly for students, print all student logins from the same screen, and review the summary page of the PDF.
- To review all accommodations assigned to all students within the school, go to **Student Registration**, click **Export**, and the file will be downloaded to your computer.

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

G Tasks to Complete One or Two Days BEFORE Test Administration

1. Verify that test administrators have covered or removed from the walls of each testing space all prohibited materials.

See “Materials That Must Be Covered/Removed” on page 26 for examples of materials that must be covered or removed.

2. Print summary pages and student logins.

- In the MCAS Portal, click **Administration > Test Scheduling > View Details/Student Logins**. Select the students to print or select all students. Click **Export Logins for Selected Students**, then choose **PDF** and click **Export**. Then choose either 1, 8, or 27 logins per page and click **Export**. This will download a PDF of the student logins and the summary page to your computer. (There is also an option to download a .CSV file but the PDF is needed in order to print student logins.)
- The summary page contains all the student logins and the session access codes that students will need to enter to access the test.
- Summary pages and student logins may be printed up to a week in advance, if necessary. However, DESE recommends printing them one to two days in advance of testing, and they may not be distributed to test administrators before the day of testing; once they are printed they must be kept in the school’s secure storage area.

3. Prepare additional materials for testing.

- Print copies of Mathematics and Introductory Physics reference sheets (strongly recommended).
- Optional for students using tablets: Print copies of the equation editor symbol key (available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice) for Mathematics and Introductory Physics.
- Ensure that a sufficient supply of scratch paper will be available for all students, and #2 pencils for students who need them.
- Collect handheld calculators for students who wish to use them on the Biology test, Introductory Physics test, or Session 2 of the Mathematics retest.

4. Prepare materials for accommodations.

Download graphic organizers and supplemental reference sheets for students who receive accommodation A9 (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility/organizers). Students may not use reference sheets that have already been filled out prior to the beginning of the test administration. Schools must ensure that students only receive blank graphic organizers and supplemental reference sheets.

- Gather authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries for students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs.
- Print test administrator logins for test administrators who will be administering the Human Read-Aloud or Human Signer accommodations and who plan to read or sign from their own computers. Instructions for printing test administrator logins can be found in “Setting up Human Read-Aloud/Human Signer Sessions with Test Administrator Logins” on page 105.



H Tasks to Complete DURING Test Administration

1. Using your document tracking system, distribute materials needed for testing.

On the day of testing, distribute student logins, summary pages, and other materials to each test administrator. Be sure that test administrators and the test coordinator independently count materials (student logins and test administrator logins) and sign the internal tracking form before transferring custody of secure materials. See the appropriate TAM for the specific list of materials necessary for each test session.

2. Monitor your school's test administration by conducting the following tasks.

- Follow test security requirements.
- Ensure that internal tracking forms are used each time that secure materials are moved.
- Report any testing irregularities or security incidents that occur during testing to DESE by calling 781-338-3625. If instructed to do so, complete the online Irregularity Reporting Form using the link sent to you. See "Mandatory Reporting of Irregularities by All Staff Members" on page 8 for the information to include in an irregularity report.
- Incidents involving benign use of electronic devices that occur **after** a student has completed testing and turned in their test (or turned in their test materials for PBT) do not need to be reported to DESE, but may be handled locally, with any school-based consequences at the discretion of the principal. Incidents that occur while a student is actively testing should continue to be reported as usual.

Note: This is not a change to any of the policies on prohibited devices described in "Materials PROHIBITED during Testing" on page 21; accessing cell phones, wireless earbuds, and other electronic devices is still prohibited in the testing room. This is only a change in reporting requirements, i.e., what must be reported to DESE versus what can be handled locally. Schools may contact Student Assessment Services with any questions about reporting irregularities.

3. Manage situations that may occur during testing.

Refer to Appendix A for technology-related situations and resolutions, including steps to take if a student starts testing with an incorrect accommodation (or without the correct accommodation).

a. Steps if a school is closed or has a delayed opening due to severe weather:

See "Severe Weather" on page 25 for information about severe weather situations. DESE will also provide instructions to school principals via email if there is a major situation affecting multiple communities.

b. Steps for test administration interruptions (e.g., power failures):

See "Test Administration Interruptions" on page 25 for information about handling interruptions to testing.

c. Steps if a student has a concern about a test question:

See "Reporting a Concern about a Test Question" on page 29 for information about reporting a student's concern with a test question to DESE.

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

d. Situations Related to Student Participation

Steps for students with an injury to their hand or arm at the time of testing:

1. Initiate a 504 plan or amend the IEP of any students with a recent injury to their writing hand who need test accommodations.
2. Update the student's information in the MCAS Portal with any new accommodations that have been assigned.

For more information, refer to "Participation Guidelines for Students with an Injury to their Hand or Arm at the Time of Testing" on page 13.

Steps if a student is in a placement conducting an extended evaluation of a student with a disability:

Contact the setting, and determine whether the student will be tested at the placement.

If the student was not tested at the original school, the new setting can submit an Enrollment Transfer Request to register the student.

Steps for make-up testing for students who are absent:

When the student is ready to make up the missed session, the test administrator will have the student sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk. Schools with a large number of students making up test sessions may want to create a separate class specifically for make-up testing and move students into that new class. Note that **only students who have not signed in to any test session may be moved to a different class**. Students who have taken one session of a test cannot be moved into a different class to make up the other session. They must remain in their original class. Note that moving students into a new class and scheduling the class to take the test will generate new student logins. Additional instructions for make-up testing can be found in Appendix B, section D, of the CBT TAM.

Steps for a student who transfers:

Refer to the steps for Enrollment Transfers in "Enrollment Transfer Requests" on page 120.

4. Securely store materials between sessions and after each day of testing.

- Use your document tracking system to document that all materials are kept secure between sessions and are returned to you each day after testing is completed.
- At the end of each test session, test administrators should confirm that students have submitted their responses and have signed out of the MCAS Student Kiosk. At the end of each test session, test administrators should collect student logins and used scratch paper and immediately return them to the locked storage area.

5. Maintain, and if necessary, update the record of test administrators and their students for each test session, including make-up and test completion sessions.

To confirm that all students have participated in testing, use the following reports:

- **Export Students Not Scheduled:** A list of students who are enrolled in the organization, but not scheduled to take the test
- **Export Test Status:** A list of students in the organization currently scheduled for a test with a test status for each session of a test

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

Follow the steps below to access these reports:

- In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Test Scheduling**.
- Click **Exports** and select one of the following reports:
 - > Export Test Status
 - > Export Test Status for All Tests
 - > Export Students Not Scheduled
- The file will automatically download to your computer.

6. **Collect lists of students who were not tested from test administrators, and schedule the students for make-up testing. Confirm that all students who were scheduled to participate did so. Confirm that all students are in 'Finished' status on the Test Scheduling page in the MCAS Portal.**

Students may be scheduled for make-up testing at any time until the end of the testing window. Students who exited the kiosk instead of turning in their test may appear as "In Progress" instead of in "Finished" status. If possible, schools should instruct "In Progress" students to sign back in to the kiosk on the device they originally tested on, navigate to the last question, select "Finish" and then "Turn In." Schools can check whether any students are in a status other than "Finished" by exporting the test status as described in the previous step.

7. **When test sessions are completed, verify that ALL secure materials have been returned to you.**

- Use your document tracking system to verify that test administrators have returned all secure materials to you. DESE requires two independent counts to verify that student logins, test administrator logins (if used), and used scratch paper have been returned.
- Used scratch paper is secure and must be stored securely until it is shredded. It may not be viewed by school staff members.
- If necessary, investigate any discrepancies between the materials distributed to test administrators and those returned to you.

I **Tasks to Complete AFTER Test Administration**

Note: There are no specific tasks that schools must perform in the MCAS Portal at the conclusion of testing to close down the test administration.

1. **Update student information in the MCAS Portal according to the instructions in Appendix D.**

2. **Void any tests created with test administrator logins.**

See "Instructions for Updating Student Information for CBT" on page 121.

3. **Ask your district SIMS contact to make any necessary updates to SIMS.**

Let your SIMS contact know if any students were added to or removed from your school's enrollment (you will need to provide them with students' names and SASIDs), or whether any students had a new IEP or 504 plan developed (e.g., students with a recent injury to their writing hand). See Appendix D for more information on enrollment transfers.

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

4. Complete the PCPA by the deadline listed on pages v–vi.

- Go online to www.mcasservicecenter.com, select **MCAS** from the menu, and then select **Principal's Certification** from the list of options. Follow the onscreen instructions to read the certification statements and submit the form.
- Type in your name **exactly** as it appears in DESE's School/District Profiles (profiles.doe.mass.edu); DESE will follow up with schools if the name does not match.
- The principal (**not** a designee) must complete the PCPA form; however, if you are an interim principal or a co-principal, type "interim" or "co-principal" after your name in the signature box.
- Print the confirmation and save it for your school files.

5. RETAIN the following materials in your school files for three years:

Type of Materials	Materials to Retain
Tracking and related materials	• Materials Summary forms • printout(s) of PCPA confirmation(s) • Secure Materials Internal Tracking Forms
Materials related to accommodations	• approved Request for Permission to Test a Student in an Alternate Setting forms, if applicable • completed MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgments • completed Student Accommodation Refusal forms, if applicable • accommodations lists/spreadsheets, if applicable
Other local records	• agendas, sign-in sheets, and any other relevant documentation from the Test Administrators' Training and the training session for other authorized school staff members to demonstrate that they have been trained and received TAMs and test security requirements • records of test administrators and their students for each session, including make-up and test completion sessions • completed Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing forms, if applicable • seating charts, if used • Superintendent's Assurance of Proper Test Administration forms, if used • documentation for absences due to medical reasons, if applicable • documentation for students who were removed from or added to the school's enrollment during the test administration

6. RECYCLE OR DISCARD the following materials:

Materials to Recycle or Discard
• <i>Test Administrator's Manuals</i> • this manual, after the completion of the test administration • Mathematics and Introductory Physics reference sheets • equation editor guides and symbol keys • Do Not Disturb signs • cartons that were used to ship manuals to your school

Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

7. **SECURELY DESTROY** (e.g., by shredding) the materials listed below, and indicate on the internal tracking form that this has been done.

Materials to Destroy
• scratch paper used by students • student logins • test administrator logins • summary pages • accommodation materials such as graphic organizers and pre-approved reference sheets • any session student rosters or operational reports containing student information

Appendix A

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Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

A Background and Overview

Principals, test coordinators, and technology coordinators should become familiar with the terminology describing the components of computer-based testing:

- **The MCAS Portal** is the online management system. Note that users will be signed out of the MCAS Portal after 20 minutes of inactivity.
- **The MCAS Student Kiosk** is the online testing platform for students. Note that students will be signed out of the MCAS Student Kiosk after 60 minutes of inactivity.

Steps that apply to any technology problems that may occur during testing:

- Resume testing on the same device, if possible.
- Do not turn off the device.
- Make a note of which testing device the student was using.
- If the error persists, move the student to a new device.
- If there is a situation in which a student is waiting for more than 15 minutes, then schedule the student to complete testing at a later time.

In the rare occurrence that the MCAS Student Kiosk or the MCAS Portal experiences an outage, the MCAS Service Center will email a notification to principals, district and school test coordinators, and technology coordinators. The MCAS System Status page at mcas-status.emetric.net will be updated until the issue has been resolved. A second email will be sent to schools and districts when service is restored.

B Tasks for Technology Coordinators to Complete

Tasks to Complete in Fall 2025

1. Review the technology specifications, and prepare the school's infrastructure.

The *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide* provides security requirements, minimum and recommended specifications for computer hardware and devices, and suggests recommended levels of bandwidth that will support schools' instructional and assessment needs. Schools should review the documents listed above and update operating systems as necessary.

- The *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide* provides instructions for configuring the school network to allow for student devices to access secure test content through the MCAS Student Kiosk.
- Identify any gaps in technology capacity (e.g., test-taking devices that do not meet technology specifications, potentially insufficient bandwidth), and address those gaps.
- Plan to have enough devices for test administrators and students, including back-up devices that can be used if needed.
 - Schools may want to use this device planner to determine the number of devices needed at a time. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/devicecalculator.xlsx (download link).

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2. Review DESE’s cybersecurity guidance and establish a cybersecurity plan for your school.

Technology teams are encouraged to review resources for cybersecurity planning to avoid issues that could arise during MCAS testing. Districts are highly encouraged to review the Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Roadmap (www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-municipal-and-school-technology) and the Cybersecurity Best Practices page (www.mass.gov/info-details/cybersecurity-best-practices) to take full advantage of all of the embedded resources.

Additional resources include:

- Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K–12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats: www.cisa.gov/protecting-our-future-cybersecurity-k-12
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework. The NIST Framework: nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.1299.pdf
- K12 SIX Essentials Series: www.k12six.org/essentials-series
- CISA Cyber Essentials Starter Kit: www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/cisa-cyber-essentials-starter-kit

Schools and districts should consider information as it relates to their technology infrastructure for MCAS testing and overall district plans, and email DESE’s Office of Educational Technology at k12edtech@mass.gov with any questions.

3. Determine whether your school will participate in “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) for MCAS testing.

A BYOD policy allows students to use their own devices for instruction. Schools with students using their own devices for instruction that would also like to use these devices for MCAS testing will need to inform DESE of this decision because there may be additional steps to complete in preparation for MCAS testing.

4. Configure internet firewalls, content filters, and spam filters.

- Review the *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide* available on the MCAS Resource Center (mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup) and configure your network appropriately. Test delivery URLs should be “exempted” or “excluded” from inspection and filtering.
- Configure the common applications and functions listed below so that they will not launch on any student testing devices during practice tests or during operational testing:
 - › anti-virus software performing automatic updates
 - › power management software on laptops warning of low battery levels
 - › screen savers and sleep mode
 - › email with automessage notification
 - › calendar applications with notifications, such as Google Calendar
 - › pop-up blockers
 - › set automatic updates (iTunes)
 - › OneDrive
 - › Windows Accelerator
 - › MacOS three finger tap gesture on Macintosh computers with trackpads
 - › Siri and Dictation (MacOS)
 - › Cloud Clipboard

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- › Cortana and Game bar (Windows)
- › international keyboards
- › translation software or extensions
- › writing extensions (e.g., Grammarly)
- › any other application that could have a pop-up message

5. **Verify access to the MCAS Portal and the MCAS Training Site.**

If you do not have an MCAS Portal or MCAS Training Site account or are unable to access your account, contact your school or district test coordinator.

6. **Download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosk on all testing devices and conduct Site Readiness.**

Schools should download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosk according to the instructions in the *MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide*. It is recommended to conduct Site Readiness directly after installing the MCAS Student Kiosk in order to verify that devices will be ready for testing.

Tasks to Complete at Least Two Months BEFORE Testing

1. **View online training modules, and attend additional training sessions.**

See mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training for training modules and recorded webinars.

Tasks to Complete at Least Two Weeks BEFORE Testing

1. **Conduct additional Site Readiness checks on devices as needed.**

If your school has made any technology changes since conducting Site Readiness in the fall, conduct Site Readiness again.

Note: ChromeOS devices: Peer-to-peer (P2P) networking should be disabled on ChromeOS devices. If it is available, devices can automatically update Chrome from nearby devices of the same model, resulting in an interruption in testing. Turn off this option in the Google Admin Console; it will help reduce errors and/or interruptions during testing.

Note: ChromeOS devices should have accessibility features disabled prior to testing.

2. **Prepare devices and materials.**

- Ensure that devices will be charged prior to each test session.
- Have the following materials available, and confirm if they are in working order:
 - › power cords, power strips, extra batteries, extra computers
 - › if using tablets: external keyboards
 - › if students are using Text-to-Speech or screen reader: headphones (Students do not need headphones otherwise.)

Tasks to Complete One Week BEFORE Testing

1. **Familiarize yourself with common issues that may arise during testing and how to troubleshoot, as described in sections C, D, E, and F of this appendix.**

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

C Using the Proctor Password

The school's proctor password can be found on the home page of the Administration component of the MCAS Portal. It can be viewed by district test coordinators, school test coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators.

The screenshot shows the MCAS Portal Home page. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Site Readiness, Students, Enrollment Transfer, Classes, Test Scheduling, Materials Management, and Student Registration. The main content area has a 'Home' heading and a welcome message. Below this is a table for downloading MCAS Student Kiosks. At the bottom, there is a section for the proctor password, which is highlighted with a red box. It shows a dropdown menu for the school (Cyber City Sch DLV1 (Cyber City)) and a text field containing the password 'hbkth9d'.

Device	Download Link
Chromebook	Chrome Web Store Note: The name of the app is "MCAS"
iPad	Apple App Store Note: The name of the app is "iTester." The first time the app is used on a student testing device, select "MCAS"
Windows	Student Kiosk for Windows
Mac	Student Kiosk for Mac
Linux	Student Kiosk for Linux

Proctor password for Cyber City Sch DLV1 (Cyber City)
hbkth9d

A proctor password is required to be entered in the MCAS Student Kiosk if one of the four following conditions is met:

1. A student is idle in the test for more than 60 minutes. A student is "idle" if they do not interact in any way with the kiosk. This includes the use of any accommodation or tool, navigating through the test, or interacting with any of the onscreen tools and answer choices.
2. If a student pauses or exits the test and attempts to sign back in to the test after more than 60 minutes have passed.
3. The MCAS Student Kiosk has experienced an abrupt closure, such as a loss of power, or the device is turned off while testing.
4. The proctor password will always be required on the Options page for students with the accommodation "Compatible Assistive Technology."

If individuals or a small group of students need to enter the proctor password, the test administrator should type it in for each student. If a larger group (such as a whole class) needs to enter the proctor password, then it can be read aloud or written on the board. If the proctor password is given to a large group of students, it should subsequently be changed in the MCAS Portal by the principal or test coordinator.

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Changing the Proctor Password

The proctor password changes automatically every night. If it is necessary to change the proctor password manually (because it has been read to or put on the board for a large group of students as described above), this can be done by anyone with the school test coordinator or district test coordinator role in the MCAS Portal.

Clicking the **Change** link to the right of the proctor password (see screenshot above) will bring up a dialog box where a new password can be entered.

D Troubleshooting Situations that Can Occur in Test Sessions

1. Error messages when launching the MCAS Student Kiosk

Error Message	Why did my student receive this error?	What should I do?
No internet connection found.	There is no internet connection on the device and the kiosk cannot launch.	Establish an internet connection and click Try again .
Please exit the kiosk and install the latest version.	You are launching an older version of the kiosk. The kiosk on this testing device will need to be updated.	Download and install the latest version of the kiosk from the MCAS Portal. For ChromeOS and iPadOS, verify that your MCAS app is up to date.
There was a problem while launching the kiosk. Please check your internet connection or your access permissions to the cache folder.	There is no internet connection on the device and the kiosk cannot launch, or the user profile for the device does not have access to the cache folder.	Establish an internet connection and select Click Here to try again . If there is internet connection for the device, then check the user profile cache folder permissions (see the <i>MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide</i> for more information).
We could not establish a connection to our server. Please check your internet connection.	eMetric servers cannot reach the stored response folder location due to a network connectivity failure.	Check your network connectivity and connectivity to the stored response folder location and relaunch the kiosk. If the message appears again, call the MCAS Service Center.
The offline student responses on this machine could not be processed. Please contact Support in order to continue. (ErrorCode:1003)	Stored responses could not be sent to the eMetric servers. The kiosk will not be able to launch until this is resolved.	Call the MCAS Service Center and provide them with the error message and error code.
A newer version of the app is available. Please update.	There was an update to the kiosk that was released while the kiosk was left open or already launched on the student testing device.	Click Update . The kiosk will update to the latest version and your student will be able to sign in.

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2. Error messages when signing in to the MCAS Student Kiosk

Error Message	Why did my student receive this error?	What should I do?
Invalid username/ password.	The student is using the incorrect password or username when trying to sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk.	Verify the correct username and password in the MCAS Portal and have the student retry.
We could not establish a connection to our server, please check your internet connection.	Internet connectivity was lost after the student entered their username and password. The MCAS Student Kiosk detected the loss of internet connectivity and will not allow the student to sign in until internet connectivity is reestablished.	1. Close the MCAS Student Kiosk. 2. Reestablish a connection to the internet. 3. Relaunch the MCAS Student Kiosk. 4. Check the connectivity indicator in the top right corner of the student testing interface login screen. If the connectivity indicator is green, the kiosk is connected to the internet and the student can sign in and begin taking their test. If the connectivity indicator is gray, check the internet connection again. If the connectivity indicator is still gray and you are sure the internet is connected, move the student to a different testing device, launch the kiosk on the new testing device and verify the connectivity indicator is green.

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3. Error messages when signing in to a test session

Error Message	Why did my student receive this error?	What should I do?
Incorrect session access code. Please try again.	The student is using the incorrect session access code for the session selected or typing in the session access code incorrectly.	Verify the correct session access code in the MCAS Portal and have the student retry.
Invalid password (when entering the proctor password).	The proctor password that was entered is incorrect.	Verify the correct proctor password in the MCAS Portal. Proctor passwords are case sensitive. District test coordinators, school test coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators all have access to the proctor password.
We were unable to get your test session. Please check your internet connection and try again.	Internet connectivity was lost after the student signed in. The MCAS Student Kiosk detected the loss of internet connectivity and will not load the test sessions until a connection to the internet is reestablished.	Click Retry . If internet connectivity is established, then the student will be directed to the test session. If internet connection is not detected, close the MCAS Student Kiosk, reestablish a connection to the internet on the device, and relaunch the kiosk.
An error occurred while loading the test! Click here to retry, or contact an administrator.	Internet connectivity was lost before the test session completely loaded. The MCAS Student Kiosk detected the loss of internet connectivity and will not load the test session until a connection to the internet is reestablished.	Select Click here to load the test. If internet connectivity is established, the student will be directed to the test session. If internet connectivity could not be established, the student will be redirected to the directions page. If this occurs, reestablish an internet connection on the device.
An error occurred while loading the test!	Internet connectivity was lost after the student clicked Continue on the directions page. The kiosk detected the loss of internet connectivity and will not load the test sessions until a connection to the internet is reestablished.	Click Retry Now . If internet connectivity is established, then the student will be directed to the test session. If an internet connection is not detected, close the kiosk, reestablish a connection to the internet, and launch the kiosk again.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

4. Error messages during a test session

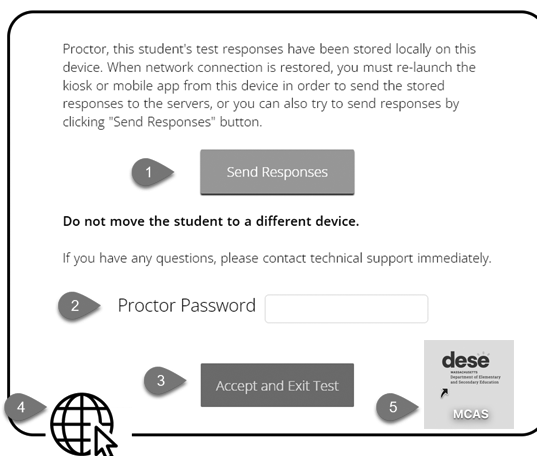
Error Message	Why did my student receive this error?	What should I do?
Please raise your hand; your test session has timed out.	The student has timed out of their test session, meaning they have been inactive in the test for 60 minutes.	Click Exit and you will be brought back to the student testing interface sign-in page. Locate the proctor password in the MCAS Portal (see “Using the Proctor Password” on page 57). When the student is ready to continue testing, they will log back in to the student testing interface and select the session they wish to continue. When prompted, enter the proctor password. The student will resume testing where they left off.
There is a problem because somebody else has logged in to your test session. You have been logged out for security reasons.	The student has signed in to their test session on two separate devices or someone else has signed in to the MCAS Student Kiosk with the same credentials. The second sign-in causes the first session (student) to be signed out.	Click Exit and have the student log back in to the test session. Verify the student’s test resumes where they were exited.
The necessary support for audio playback is not detected on this device.	This error will appear when students have the text-to-speech accommodation and there is not a playback device (headphones, speakers, or internal speakers) set as default or connected to the device.	Connect headphones or speakers to the machine and set them as the default playback device. Verify that sound is coming from the playback device.
Please raise your hand and notify your proctor: Your response is not able to be stored. To avoid losing your response, your test cannot be continued until connection to the storage location is re-established.	Access to the storage location was lost after the student began testing due to loss of network connectivity. The MCAS Student Kiosk will not allow the student to continue testing until access to the storage location is restored.	Click Retry Now . If a connection to the storage location is reestablished, the MCAS Student Kiosk will return to the screen where the student was prior to loss of connectivity. If, after several attempts, the connection to the network storage location cannot be reestablished, either force-quit the MCAS Student Kiosk and move the student to a new device that has connectivity to the network and storage location or contact the MCAS Service Center for further assistance.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

Error Message	Why did my student receive this error?	What should I do?
Please raise your hand and notify your proctor. A connection to the network could not be established. Your test has been saved offline.	Internet connectivity was lost after the student began testing and was not restored by the time the student completed the test. The student completed the test session and clicked Turn in Test . The student's responses will be saved to the local folder configured when the MCAS Student Kiosk was initially installed.	See the screenshot and instructions below.

Please raise your hand and notify your proctor.

A connection to the network could not be established. Your test has been saved offline.



Instructions for when a student has completed their test after a loss of internet connectivity.

1. Read the instructions in the message and click **Send Responses**. You will be notified to wait 10 seconds as the student testing interface tries to determine if there is internet connection. If internet connectivity was reestablished before clicking **Send Responses**, the stored responses on this device will be sent to the servers, the test will be submitted, and the student testing interface will exit the test. If there is no internet connection, the Send Response button will appear again. From here you can try to establish internet connection and click **Send Responses** again or move on to step 2.
2. Test administrator reads and acknowledges that they have read and understand the instructions by entering the proctor password.
3. Select **Accept and Exit Test**.
4. Contact your technology coordinator to reestablish a connection to the internet.
5. Relaunch the MCAS Student Kiosk. The student's stored responses will be synced, and the test will be submitted. As an option, the student can sign in and navigate to the student profile page to confirm the test session has been submitted (it will be grayed and crossed out).

E Troubleshooting Tips for Test Administrators

Clearing the Application Cache

If any of the online testing files become corrupt, for instance the MCAS content and images are not rendering or the tools and accessibility features are not working as expected, deleting the application cache will force the MCAS Student Kiosk to download a new set of cache files.

Clearing the application cache:

1. From the MCAS Student Kiosk login screen, click **Clear Cache** in the lower right-hand corner.
2. You will be asked “Are you sure?” Click **Yes**, and the kiosk will close and then re-launch.

Copyright © 2025 eMetric LLC
Carrier: v3.49.8 #d0b0a01 #179
Shell: v3.50.8 #65eceb918 prd
[Clear Cache](#)

Copyright © 2025 eMetric LLC
Carrier: v3.49.8 #d0b0a01 #179
Shell: v3.50.8 #65eceb918 prd
Are you sure? [Yes](#)

Frozen Screen

Your student is taking their test in the MCAS Student Kiosk and the kiosk stops responding and becomes frozen.

What should I do?

Try to pause the test and log back in. If you are unable to pause, restart the device. Once the device has been restarted, log back in to the test, enter the proctor password, and continue testing.

Constructed-Response Box

Specific keys are not working on the keyboard for Windows, Mac, and Linux:

Your student is trying to answer an open-ended question and specific keys on the keyboard are not working.

What do I do next?

Pause the test and sign in again. Try to type in the open-ended box with those specific keys.

If it does not resolve the issue, you will need to clear the application cache, as the files may have become corrupt.

Student cannot type in the constructed-response box:

Your student is trying to answer a constructed-response question but cannot type in the answer box.

What should I do?

1. If the student is unable to type, pause the test and have the student sign in again. Have them try to type in the open-ended box.
2. If this does not resolve the issue, you will need to follow the steps for clearing application cache listed above.

Note: If the constructed-response box has a character counter and the student has reached the maximum characters allowed, they will not be able to type in the constructed-response box.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

Intentionally Moving a Student to a Different Device

If a student needs extended time or must log off their device and move to another device in a different location to continue testing, test administrators should take the following steps:

What should I do?

1. Ensure the student's current testing device has an active internet connection.
2. Pause and exit the test.
3. Move the student to the new testing device.
4. Ensure the testing device in the new location has an active internet connection.
5. Launch the MCAS Student Kiosk.
6. Allow the student to sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk and resume testing.
7. Confirm the student's test has previously entered responses.

If you believe responses are missing, contact the MCAS Service Center for further assistance.

1. SITUATION: The MCAS Student Kiosk does not appear to be working properly but the student is actually experiencing an expected behavior.

RESOLUTION:

Steps for the Test Administrator:

The following is an expected behavior in the MCAS Student Kiosk:

- A test question appears as "Not Answered" in the "Review" menu until all parts of that question have been answered.

If students encounter a situation not listed above, consult with your technology staff, who may then call the MCAS Service Center.

Steps for the Technology Staff:

Escalate the issue to the principal for a student who is waiting for 15 minutes.

2. SITUATION: A student exits the MCAS Student Kiosk before completing a test session.

RESOLUTION:

1. Have the student sign in to the MCAS Student Kiosk using the sign-in information on the student login. The student's test will resume from the point at which the test was interrupted.
2. If the student resumes testing within 60 minutes, a proctor password is not required. If the student resumes testing after 60 minutes, a proctor password is required.

Technology coordinators should contact the MCAS Service Center immediately if there is an issue that cannot be resolved. It is acceptable to contact the Service Center using a cell phone, but it is not permissible to photograph students' testing devices (e.g., to show an error message). Be prepared to provide logs from the testing devices if the Service Center requests them.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

3. **SITUATION: A student accidentally turned in the session but did not actually finish a test session.**

RESOLUTION: Only someone with the district test coordinator role can undo student test submissions—it cannot be done at the school level. Schools should contact their district test coordinator who can undo student test submissions with the following steps.

1. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Test Scheduling**.
2. Locate the correct test and scheduled class.
3. Click **View Details/Student Logins**.
4. Locate the student and click **“Reactivate”** for the session the student needs to resume taking.

F Resolving Situations that Involve Accommodations

1. **SITUATION: A student has the wrong accommodation assigned and the student has not signed in to the MCAS Student Kiosk yet (is still in “Not Started” status).**

RESOLUTION: If the student is in a class that has not been scheduled to take the test, the accommodation can be updated by following these steps:

1. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Students**.
2. Search for the student and click **Edit**.
3. Navigate to the Accommodations tab and select the appropriate test from the drop-down menu.
4. Update the Accommodation and click **Save** (repeat if more than one test needs to be updated).

If the student is in a class that has been scheduled to take the test, the student’s test login may need to be updated in the session if one of the following accommodations is being used: Compatible AT/screen reader, Human Read-Aloud, or Human Signer. This can be done by following these steps:

1. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Students**.
2. Search for the student and click **Edit**.
3. Navigate to the Accommodations tab and select the appropriate test from the drop-down menu.
4. Update the Accommodation and click **Save**.
5. Go to **Test Scheduling** and locate the student’s original session.
6. If the form assignment must be updated, a green button will appear called **“Add or Update Students.”** Click this button and print out the new student logins.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

2. SITUATION: A student has the wrong accommodation and has signed in to the test.

RESOLUTION: For most accommodations, the accommodation can be updated and the student may continue testing.

1. Have the student sign out of the test completely.
2. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Students**.
3. Search for the student and click **Edit**.
4. Navigate to the Accommodations tab and select the appropriate test from the drop-down menu.
5. Update the Accommodation and click **Save** (repeat if more than one test needs to be updated).
6. Have the student log back in to the test.

If the student has signed in to the test and one of the following accommodations was assigned incorrectly, the student will need to be moved to a new class and rescheduled to take the test: Compatible AT/screen reader, Human Read-Aloud, or Human Signer. This can be done by following these steps:

1. Have the student sign out of the test.
2. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Students**.
3. Search for the student and click **Edit**.
4. Navigate to the Accommodations tab and select the appropriate test from the drop-down menu.
5. Update the Accommodation and click **Save**.
6. Go to **Test Scheduling** and locate the student's scheduled class.
7. Select **View Details/Student Logins**.
8. Select the checkbox next to the student's name.
9. Select **Add Report Codes**.
10. Select **Void (wrong accommodation)** and select **Save**.
11. Create a new class or add the student to an existing class that is different from their original class.
12. Schedule the class to take the test.
13. Print new student login.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

3. **SITUATION: Students with a Spanish/English accommodation are assigned to a class that includes non-accommodated students. The class is scheduled to take the general test form. The students have not yet signed in to the test.**

RESOLUTION: Students requiring a Spanish/English accommodation must be assigned to a separate Spanish-only class and scheduled for a Spanish test.

1. Go to the current class for this test and remove students with the Spanish/English accommodation from the class (Class > Edit).
2. Create a new class and add only the students with the Spanish/English accommodation.
3. Schedule each class to take the appropriate test. Students taking the Spanish/English test edition must be scheduled for the Spanish/English edition on the Test Scheduling page.

4. **SITUATION: A student is supposed to have the Spanish/English test edition, but has started the test with the English-only edition assigned.**

RESOLUTION: If the student has already answered more than five questions, contact DESE or the MCAS Service Center.

If the student has answered five or fewer questions:

1. Have the student completely sign out of the test.
2. Go to **Test Scheduling** and locate the student's scheduled class.
3. Select **View Details/Student Logins**.
4. Select the checkbox next to the student's name.
5. Select **Add Report Codes**.
6. Select **Void (wrong accommodation)** and select **Save**.
7. Create a new class or add the student to an existing class with other students taking the Spanish/English edition of the test.
8. Schedule the class to take the Spanish/English test. Be sure to select the Spanish/English edition of the test from the drop-down on the Test Scheduling page.
9. Print new student login.

Appendix A—Tasks and Guidance for Technology Coordinators

5. **SITUATION: Students’ Text-to-Speech, Human Read-Aloud, or Human Signer accommodations are not appearing correctly and the students have signed in to the test.**

RESOLUTION: Students should not be assigned to more than one of these accommodations. Instructions for correcting a large number of errors (Student Registration Import):

1. In the MCAS Portal, go to **Administration > Student Registration** and click **Export Students**.
2. In the .CSV file, identify all students who have both Text-to-Speech Standard (column S) and Human Read-Aloud Standard (column T) or Human Signer Standard (column U) selected for all non-ELA test codes. Identify all students who have both Text-to-Speech Special (column Y) and Human Read-Aloud Special (column Z) or Human Signer Special (column AA) selected for ELA test codes. Delete all other students from the file.
3. Remove either the Text-to-Speech flag, or the Human Reader or Human Signer flag for those students.
4. Save the file as a .CSV file.
5. Follow the steps in Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration* to import the updated file.
6. Have the students completely sign out of the tests.
7. Go to **Test Scheduling** and locate the students’ scheduled class.
8. Select **View Details/Student Logins**.
9. Select the checkboxes next to the students’ names.
10. Select **Add Report Codes**.
11. Select **Void (wrong accommodation)** and select **Save**.
12. Create a new class or add the students to an existing class.
13. Schedule the class to take the test.
14. Print new student logins.

Appendix B

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Procedures for Paper-Based Testing: Accommodations A1 and EL1

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

This appendix contains additional instructions for schools with students who will be taking paper-based tests. These instructions supplement those in the rest of the manual with information relevant to PBT. In some cases, the information here will supersede instructions in the body of the PAM.

Part I: MCAS Test Security Requirements

Additional definitions

- **“Secure”** materials include the following:
 - **Test & answer booklets**
 - **Test booklets and answer booklets for the Spanish/English test editions**
- **“Access”** refers to handling test materials such as booklets, but does not include viewing test content or student responses in booklets. Students may never transport secure booklets, including from their initial testing room to a test completion room.

A Additional Responsibilities of the Principal and Test Coordinator

Oversee the receipt from and return to the testing contractor of all paper-based test materials.

- Inventory paper-based materials immediately upon receipt and investigate any discrepancies in counts of materials.
- Return all paper-based materials to the testing contractor according to the prescribed packing instructions and the deadlines in this manual.

B Additional Shared Responsibilities of Principals, Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members Authorized to Have Access to Secure Materials

Ensure the security of test questions, test & answer booklets, and other secure materials.

- Do not remove test materials from the school. For example, do not share booklets with another school or program housed in your building.
- Do not view the contents of booklets before, during, or after a test administration (except when administering certain accommodations listed in Appendix C).
- Do not discuss or in any way reveal the contents of booklets before, during, or after test administration. Because MCAS test questions are secure and confidential until DESE releases them publicly, school staff members should not discuss or review test questions with students or adults even after testing has been completed, with the exception of reporting a student’s concern about a test question to DESE.
- Do not duplicate any portion of booklets, including but not limited to audiotaping, videotaping, photographing, photocopying, typing, or copying by hand.²
- Do not allow any portion of booklets to be retained, discarded, recycled, removed, or destroyed.³

² The only exceptions are for test administrators who must transcribe student responses into booklets for students with disabilities receiving certain accommodations or for students who did some or all of their work in damaged, defective, or void booklets.

³ The only exception is for test materials that have become contaminated; see page 72 for procedures.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

C Additional Responsibilities of Test Administrators

Focus full attention on the testing environment at all times.

- A test administrator may view students' booklets only for the purposes of confirming that students are working in the correct test session, or in order to read aloud selected words during the Mathematics retest or the high school Science tests as part of universal accessibility feature UF11.
- Students must work only on the test session being administered. If a test administrator observes a student working in the incorrect test session of a booklet or reviewing the incorrect test session, this is a testing irregularity that must be reported immediately to the principal. The principal must then report the irregularity to DESE.

Part II: MCAS Test Administration Protocols

A Accounting for and Distributing Secure Materials

Section A here supersedes information in the body of the PAM in "Accounting for and Distributing Secure Materials" on page 16.

It is the responsibility of the principal to account for secure test materials through test administration. This means inventorying materials immediately upon receipt, tracking the location of materials throughout test administration, and ensuring that all materials are returned to the testing contractor. DESE recommends that principals account for secure materials using the identification numbers listed on the packing slips and document the identification numbers on internal tracking forms. DESE also recommends having more than one person present to count materials upon receipt and when preparing for their return. The school and district are responsible for any secure materials that were received at the school but not returned.

Note that for the fall/winter administrations, paper-based tests are being produced as follows:

- **ELA retest:** One test & answer booklet for Session 1; one test & answer booklet for Session 2
- **Mathematics retest:** One test & answer booklet for Session 1; one test & answer booklet for Session 2
- **Biology test:** One test & answer booklet for Session 1; one test & answer booklet for Session 2
- **Introductory Physics test:** One test & answer booklet for Session 1; one test & answer booklet for Session 2
- **Spanish/English editions of the Mathematics retest and the Biology and Introductory Physics tests:** One answer booklet for Session 1; one answer booklet for Session 2; one test booklet for Session 1; one test booklet for Session 2

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

1. Establishing a Chain of Custody for Test Materials

The principal must use the forms listed below to account for and maintain the security of test materials.

a. Materials Summary

The Materials Summary is used to inventory materials immediately upon receipt and to reconcile secure materials being returned at the end of testing. The school receives one combined Materials Summary for all the subjects being tested in the shipment of materials.

The Materials Summary is used when ordering additional materials, including manuals. Schools need to use the Ship Code printed on the form when placing an additional materials order. The Materials Summary lists only the materials shipped to each school, and schools should check the complete lists of test materials at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest and www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/biology-physics to confirm that all materials needed for testing were included in the shipment, and to determine if other materials need to be ordered.

After testing is completed, principals must maintain the Materials Summary in school files (it is not to be returned to the testing contractor).

A sample form is provided at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms.

b. Packing Slips

A packing slip is included in each carton of test materials. Each packing slip provides the identification number of any secure materials shipped in the carton. Principals who discover a discrepancy between the number of secure materials listed as shipped and the number received at the school can use the identification numbers to determine the specific material(s) missing.

c. Reporting discrepancies in shipments

Contact the MCAS Service Center if there are any discrepancies in your materials shipment.

2. Accounting for Contaminated Test Materials

If a booklet becomes contaminated with bodily fluids, the principal or test coordinator must contact the MCAS Service Center immediately for instructions. Procedures for these materials should follow district and school guidelines based on appropriate protocol for universal precautions issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

B Materials Required/Permitted, and Prohibited during Testing for PBT

Section B here supersedes the information in the body of the PAM in “Materials PROHIBITED during Testing” on page 21.

Cell phones may be used by test administrators for test administration–related purposes such as communicating with the test coordinator or school administration. At no time should test administrators be using cell phones for any purpose unrelated to testing, or in any way that distracts them from focusing their full attention on the testing room.

1. Materials REQUIRED for Student Use

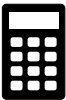
The following materials **must be provided for student use** during testing:

- #2 pencils (wooden)
- scratch paper
 - › Test administrators must supply at least one sheet of unused scratch paper (blank, lined, or graph) for each student for each test session.
 - › Students may request more scratch paper, if needed. Test administrators may provide up to three pages at one time. If students need additional pages beyond three, they will need to turn in used scratch paper. Upon request, students may view the pages they already turned in, as long as they only have three pages at one time.
 - › Test administrators are responsible for collecting all used scratch paper to be securely destroyed (e.g., shredded) after test administration by the principal or test coordinator.
 - › Schools may reuse scratch paper if the paper is completely blank.
 - › Scratch paper that has been written on during Session 1 of a test may not be used in Session 2; students will need new paper.
- calculators for **designated test sessions only** (see tables on the following page)

Test administrators must ensure that students do not have access to calculator instructions or formula sheets that accompany calculators. The memory should be cleared from any calculator with the ability to store information (other than basic numbers). Calculators that can access the internet are not allowed.
- reference sheets that are included in shipments of Mathematics and Introductory Physics materials **for designated test sessions only** (See the following tables.)

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

2. Calculators and Reference Sheets REQUIRED for Student Use

Icon in the Following Tables	Description
	Students must have access to an appropriate calculator on the tests listed below. Test administrators must ensure that students do not have access to calculator instructions or formula sheets that accompany calculators. The memory should be cleared from any calculator with the ability to store information (other than basic numbers). Calculators that can access the internet are not allowed. • Mathematics Session 2 only Each student must have sole access to an appropriate calculator for Mathematics Session 2. Students may use their own calculators, including graphing calculators. Schools must provide a calculator for each student who does not already have one, as follows: > recommended: a scientific calculator or graphing calculator > minimum: a five-function calculator • Biology and Introductory Physics tests Each student must have sole access to a calculator for the Biology and Introductory Physics tests. Students may use their own calculators, including graphing calculators. Schools must provide a calculator for each student who does not already have one, as follows: > a scientific calculator or graphing calculator
	Calculators are not permitted for Mathematics Session 1.
	Students must be provided with the reference or formula sheets included in shipments of test materials for the following tests: • Mathematics retest • Introductory Physics test

a. Tools Available for Mathematics by Session

Tools Available for Session 1		Tools Available for Session 2	
	 reference sheet	 scientific or graphing	 reference sheet

b. Tools Available for Biology and Introductory Physics (both sessions)

Subject	Tools Available	
Biology	 scientific or graphing	
Introductory Physics	 scientific or graphing	 reference sheet

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

3. Materials PERMITTED for Student Use

The following materials **may be used** by students:

- colored pencils and yellow highlighters
Note: Students may use a colored pencil (e.g., for marking or underlining passages) or a yellow highlighter, but must use a #2 pencil only to answer all test questions.
- for the Mathematics retest, printed copies of the Guidelines for Completing Answer Grids (available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice)
- authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries for students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs (See Appendix C for more information.)
- concentration aids (e.g., fidget toys, squeeze balls, gum)
 - › At the principal's discretion, students may use concentration aids during testing as long as the use of these aids does not affect the testing environment for other students.

4. Materials PROHIBITED during Testing

Materials listed in section a below are not permitted at any time during test sessions, and materials listed in section b may only be provided after students have turned in their test materials. None of the materials in section a or b are permitted while students have their test materials.

a. Materials PROHIBITED at Any Time during a Test Session

Materials listed in this section **are NOT permitted at any time during test sessions**, including after students turn in their test materials, during a break, or during the transition to a test completion area. See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for a poster that can be displayed during testing showing examples of prohibited materials.

- cell phones (See the following page for more information.)
- other electronic devices
 - › smartwatches
 - › e-book readers or electronic dictionaries
 - › music players for one student's personal use or that of the whole class, earphones, ear buds, or headphones (other than noise blocking headphones; see "DF7" on page 90)
 - › any device capable of taking photographs
 - › game consoles
 - › electronic translators
 - › calculators (except during the tests/sessions listed in "Calculators and Reference Sheets REQUIRED for Student Use" on page 74)
 - › computers or electronic tablets
 - › any device that provides access to the internet (such as certain calculators and fitness trackers)
 - › editing devices (e.g., spelling or grammar checkers)
- unauthorized reference sheets (e.g., formula sheets, multiplication grids, conversion tables)

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

- English-language dictionaries or thesauruses
- accommodation materials unless specified by a student's approved IEP or 504 plan (e.g., graphic organizers)

b. Materials PROHIBITED until after a Student Has Completed Testing

Materials listed in this section **may be provided to individual students only AFTER** they have completed testing (i.e., turned in their individual test materials), and at the principal's discretion. These materials are prohibited during testing.

- books
- textbooks for subjects other than the one being tested
- notebooks or other notes, as well as flags or sticky notes
- pens

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

It is the responsibility of the principal and test administrators to ensure that students do not have access to cell phones or other electronic devices during testing. **Results may be invalidated for students who use cell phones or other electronic devices at any time during a test session.** For more information about reporting cell phone irregularities see "Monitor your school's test administration by conducting the following tasks." on page 47.

During the Test Administrators' Training, the principal will inform test administrators either to read the script in the TAM instructing students before each test session to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices and place them in their backpacks, or to follow another procedure to ensure that students do not have access to cell phones or other electronic devices.

C Scheduling Test Sessions

For scheduling purposes, note that there is no tutorial for the paper-based MCAS tests; however, practice tests are available.

D Additional Topics for Training Test Administrators, Technology Staff, and Other School Staff Members

Describe school policies and procedures regarding the following topic:

- who to contact in the event that secure test materials become contaminated

Test administrators are required to do the following:

- Closely monitor students during testing to ensure that they do not view one another's booklets or turn back to previously completed test sessions.
- Write their name as well as the school and district name on the board (students will write this information down on the front covers of their booklets).

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

E Additional Information on Preparing Students for Testing

Meetings

During the meeting, provide students with the following information:

Their test results may be invalidated if they engage in any of the following activities during a test session (including after turning in their test materials, during a break, or during the transition to a test completion area):

- duplicating any portion of the booklets
- looking at any other student's booklet
- working in a test session other than the one being administered, looking at questions or test pages beyond the stop sign, or going back to a previous test session
- damaging their test materials or removing any part of them from the testing room

Practice Tests

Practice tests for paper-based testing are available at the MCAS Resource Center and can be downloaded at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice.

Resources to Prepare Students for Testing

To assist students in becoming familiar with answering gridded response questions on paper-based Mathematics tests, schools can download the Gridded Response Guidelines from the MCAS Resource Center at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice.

Part III: Tasks to Complete for Test Administration

A Additional Steps before Paper-Based Testing

- 1. Verify receipt of test materials immediately upon their delivery to your school. Materials will arrive by the date listed on pages v–vi. Call the MCAS Service Center if you do not receive materials by this date.**
- 2. Using your Materials Summary, inventory test materials immediately upon receipt.**

To inventory test materials, complete the “Qty Received” column of the Materials Summary according to the “Before Testing” directions on the form.

Shrink-wrapped materials must remain unopened until the time specified either in this manual or in the TAMs. Therefore, to inventory your materials, count the spines of the booklets in each shrink-wrapped package.

DESE recommends two independent counts of test materials to verify that all materials have been received by your school.

Retain the Materials Summary to assist in accounting for materials after testing.
- 3. Store materials in the secure, locked storage area that you previously designated. Retain all original shipping cartons for the return of materials following testing.**

All materials will be returned in your original shipping cartons.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

4. If necessary, order additional test materials or manuals by the dates and times listed on pages v–vi.

- To review shipments of paper materials, visit the MCAS Portal (mcas.cognia.org), click **Administration**, and select **Materials Management** in the top menu. From this page, each shipment and its details are viewable. To order additional materials, click the **Order Additional Materials** button.
- Schools will receive a small overage of materials (for example, if a school has only one student doing PBT, one extra set of materials will be shipped). Schools should carefully inventory materials by the deadline to confirm that the shipment meets testing needs.
- Only if applicable, order additional materials, including manuals, by the dates and times listed on pages v–vi.
- Locate the Ship Code on the Materials Summary, and have the code available when you go online to order additional materials at www.mcasservicecenter.com. Follow the onscreen instructions to place your order. Materials ordered online will be shipped for receipt on the following business day if the order is received before 12:00 p.m.; orders received after 12:00 p.m. will be shipped for receipt on the second business day. Packing discrepancies in additional orders must be reported within two business days of receipt of the order.
- It is not necessary to order additional materials for test administrators to administer tests to students requiring the accommodation for Human Read-Aloud or Human Signer. There will be enough materials shipped in overage to cover these additional tests.

5. Apply Student ID Labels to the front covers of booklets.

All student ID labels should be applied to booklets in advance of testing by school staff members. Students should not apply labels to their booklets after the booklets have been distributed.

Principals may open packages of **answer booklets** for the Spanish/English editions of the Mathematics retest and the High School Science tests up to two days prior to testing in order to apply labels.

DESE recommends that Student ID Labels be applied to **test & answer booklets** on the day of testing, but principals may open packages of test & answer booklets in order to apply labels up to one day prior to testing. If this is done, the booklets must then be sealed in envelopes (supplied by the school) and the inventory documented on the envelopes after the labels are applied. (Schools do not need to seal Spanish/English answer booklets in envelopes prior to testing.)

Envelopes may not be reopened until immediately before testing. Remember that all test security requirements (see Part I) must be followed.

See the sample booklet covers posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for examples of the information that needs to be filled in for students with Student ID Labels as well as students without a label.

6. Gather school-supplied testing materials.

- Collect #2 pencils to provide to any students who do not bring them.
- For the Mathematics retest, print copies of the Guidelines for Completing Answer Grids, which can be found at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/practice (optional).
- Have authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries available for students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

7. **Using your school’s document tracking system, organize test materials for distribution.**

Each test administrator should receive extra test materials to replace possible defective booklets. If you did not receive enough materials to distribute extra shrink-wrapped materials to each test administrator, you may open the minimum number of packages necessary to distribute extra materials.

B Additional Tasks to Complete During Test Administration

1. **Distribute lists of SASIDs to test administrators if the school does not have student ID labels for any students who are testing that day.**

- These students will need to fill in additional information (including their SASIDS) on the front covers of their booklets.

2. **Monitor your school’s test administration.**

- Check testing rooms to ensure that materials are covered on the walls and that the rooms are set up to support a secure testing environment.

3. **Maintain and, if necessary, update the record of test administrators and their students for each test session, including make-up and test completion sessions.**

It is important to keep accurate records of who has been tested. It is not permissible to look through booklets to check whether students have completed testing.

4. **After each test session, verify that ALL test materials have been returned to you.**

- If necessary, investigate any discrepancies in amounts of materials distributed to test administrators and the amount returned to you. **Schools are responsible for returning all secure materials that were shipped to them.**

5. **If any test materials have become contaminated, call the MCAS Service Center for instructions.**

6. **If any booklets have become damaged or defective during testing, follow these steps.**

- Make sure the “void test & answer booklet” circle is filled in on the outside back cover of each affected booklet, and that “VOID” is written in large letters across the front cover.
- If a student completed any work in a booklet that was later deemed void, the work must be transcribed verbatim (multiple-choice responses as well as constructed responses) into a replacement booklet so that the student receives credit.
- The process of transcribing a student’s responses may occur any time during the testing window, but must be monitored and supervised by the principal, test coordinator, or another test administrator to ensure accuracy.
- Since there will be no Student ID Label to affix to the front cover of the replacement booklet, all the information on the front cover will need to be completed.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

7. If your school administered tests to students using the following accommodations, verify that these responses have been transcribed completely and accurately into standard test & answer booklets.

- students taking the Braille edition (accommodation A3.2) who did not also use the typed response accommodation
- students taking the large-print edition (accommodation A2)
- students who recorded their answers on special paper (accommodation A11)

8. If your school administered tests to students using typed responses (accommodation A12), follow these steps.

- Verify that test administrators have returned the typed responses to you properly and that each response has the required header information shown on “Procedures for Submitting Typed Responses for Paper-Based Testing (Accommodation A12)” on page 108.
A student’s response to any single question must be submitted using only one method (i.e., all written or all typed).
- Insert typed responses inside the front cover of students’ test & answer booklets (see “Procedures for Submitting Typed Responses for Paper-Based Testing (Accommodation A12)” on page 108).
- Once all typed responses are formatted properly and typed responses are prepared for return, instruct test administrators to delete students’ responses from the computers.

C Tasks to Complete after Test Administration

1. Update student information after testing according to the instructions in Appendix D.

2. Ask your district SIMS contact to make any necessary updates to SIMS.

Let your SIMS contact know if any students were added to or removed from your school’s enrollment (you will need to provide them with students’ names and SASIDs), or whether any students had a new IEP or 504 plan developed (e.g., students with a recent injury to their writing hand). See Appendix D for more information on enrollment transfers.

Part IV: Return Test Materials

To facilitate the return of materials and to assist principals, an automatic pickup has been prescheduled for all schools doing PBT. A UPS driver will automatically come to the school on the pickup deadline date for each administration.

A Begin Packing Activities

1. Make sure that you have a used test & answer booklet assigned to every student who participated in the ELA and Mathematics retests, the Biology test, or the Introductory Physics test.
2. Verify that front covers of booklets contain correct student information, and complete confidential student information on back covers.

See www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for sample covers.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

Because the November retests and the February Science tests have separate test & answer booklets for Session 1 and Session 2, schools should apply labels to both booklets and fill out the inside and outside back covers of both booklets. Booklets without labels also need to have the front cover fully filled out.

If a student transfers out of the school after Session 1 and before Session 2 of a test, fill in the circle on the back cover of the Session 1 booklet to indicate the change of enrollment status. (If the Session 2 booklet has been assigned, follow the instructions in step 6 on page 79 to mark the booklets as void. If it was not yet assigned, follow the instructions in step 7 on page 83 for returning unused test materials.)

- Verify that SASIDs and dates of birth have been entered correctly on booklets for all students who do not have Student ID Labels.
- Complete confidential student information on the inside and outside back covers of booklets, following instructions in the table below.

Situation	Instructions
A student was provided accommodations not initially listed in the Student Registration.	Update the MCAS Portal so it accurately reflects the accommodations that the student used (Students>Locate Student>Edit). In addition, if a student used Braille, Large Print, or Typed Responses, fill in the corresponding circle next to the accommodation on the inside back cover of the booklet. Because a student's IEP or 504 status is reported in SIMS, remember to report students with disabilities to your district SIMS contact, including students for whom a 504 plan was developed because of a temporary disability such as a broken arm.
A student refused accommodations during testing or did not use an accommodation.	Update the MCAS Portal so it accurately reflects the accommodations that the student used (Students>Locate Student>Edit).
A student was absent for another reason from all test sessions in the subject-area test or refused testing.	Do not assign a booklet to a student who did not participate in testing (if one is already assigned, follow the instructions in the "void" section below).
A student was added to or removed from your school's enrollment after the Student Registration was submitted.	If the student did not test at all: Do not assign a booklet to a student (if one is already assigned, follow the instructions in the "void" section below). If the student participated in one or more test sessions: Fill in one of the circles in the "Change of Enrollment Status" section on the outside back cover of the booklet. For a student added to your enrollment, add the student to the MCAS Portal following instructions in Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> (available at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal).
A student's test needs to be marked "void" (i.e., it will not be scored and no student results will be reported).	Fill in the void circle on the outside back cover of the booklet. Write "VOID" across the front of the booklet. Place the booklet in the Void Envelope in the return shipment.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

3. If booklets have already been assigned to the following students, follow the instructions above to mark the booklets as void.

- students who transferred into or out of your school during the test administration and who did not participate in that booklet's session(s)
- students in a DYS facility or placements conducting an extended evaluation who were removed from your school's enrollment and did not participate in any test sessions in the booklet

4. Account for all secure materials being returned using the Materials Summary, and organize the booklets.

Remember that all booklets, including Braille and large-print editions, are secure materials and must be returned. Investigate any discrepancies in the amount of materials received and the amount of materials being returned, using the Materials Summary form and internal tracking forms.

Record on the Materials Summary the quantities of booklets being returned according to the "After Testing" instructions on the form.

As you count, arrange the booklets so that the student name grids on the front covers are facing up (the booklets do not need to be alphabetized). Ensure that used booklets are free of extra materials such as rubber bands, paper clips, binder clips, staples, tape, and extraneous paper.

Retain the Materials Summary form for school files (see "Next Steps" on page 84).

5. Complete the PCPA by the deadlines listed on pages v–vi.

Go online to www.mcasservicecenter.com, select **MCAS** from the menu, and then select **Principal's Certification** from the list of options. Follow the onscreen instructions to submit the form.

Type in your name exactly as it appears in DESE's School/District Profiles (profiles.doe.mass.edu); the MCAS Service Center will follow up with schools when the name does not match. The principal (**not** a designee) must complete a PCPA form; however, if you are an interim principal or a co-principal, type "interim" or "co-principal" after your name in the signature box.

Print the confirmation and save it for your school files.

6. Place special materials in the Special Handling and Void envelopes, as described below.

- Prior to placing the booklets in the envelopes, mark the counts of the materials down for your school files.
- Place the materials listed below in the Special Handling Envelope.
 - › used and *unused* large-print test & answer booklets, folded in half, with corresponding transcribed standard test & answer booklets
 - › used and *unused* large-print answer booklets and large-print test booklets, folded in half, with corresponding transcribed standard answer booklets (for the Spanish/English editions of Mathematics, Biology, and Introductory Physics)
 - › standard test & answer booklets (or answer booklets) containing typed responses
- Place void test & answer booklets (or answer booklets) in the Void Envelope.
 - › Void booklets will not be scored.

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

7. **Place all other used and unused booklets (with the exception of Braille) in the Return Envelope marked with the corresponding subject.**
 - Used and unused booklets are shipped together in the Return Envelope.
 - Prior to placing the booklets in the Return Envelopes, mark the counts of the materials down for your school files.
 - High schools will have separate Return Envelopes for each subject: ELA, Mathematics, Biology, and Introductory Physics.

B Pack the Test Materials

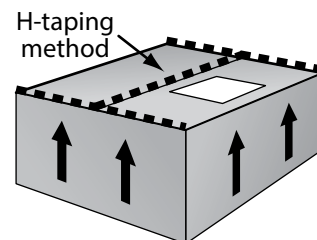
1. **Make sure that the envelopes being used (i.e., Void, Special Handling, and Return) are sealed.**
2. **Pack the envelopes and all remaining test materials in your original shipping cartons in the order shown below.**

Packing Order and Checklist	
Top of carton	
☐	Return Envelope(s)
☐	Special Handling Envelope(s)
☐	Void Envelope(s)
☐	Unused UPS labels (Note: Save a label for each carton of materials you are returning.)
☐	Unused Return, Special Handling, and Void Envelopes
☐	Unused Student ID Labels
☐	Accommodation materials (e.g., templates, checklists, individualized reference sheets, typed response drafts)
☐	Used and unused Braille booklets and Braille Administrator's Copies
Bottom of carton	

3. **Fill any empty spaces at the tops of the cartons with crumpled paper to keep items from shifting during shipping. Do not use plastic peanuts or shredded paper.**
4. **Before sealing your cartons, verify that all materials have been packed in them.**
5. **Use heavy-duty packing tape to seal carton seams using the H-taping method (see diagram).**
6. **Affix an RS label to the top of each carton.**

You may either remove the existing label from the carton or place the new label over it. UPS RS labels were included in your shipment of test materials (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms for a sample label).

If you need more labels, call the MCAS Service Center. UPS RS labels may not be photocopied.



7. **Record the UPS tracking numbers from the labels on the cartons you are returning, and retain the list in your school files. In case of any questions later, it is important that schools retain the tracking numbers used.**

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

C Schedule and Confirm UPS Pickup of All Test Materials

1. (Optional/encouraged) If your school will be returning material before the shipping deadline/automatic pickup, schedule your school's UPS pickup appointment.

- Do not take test materials to UPS yourself or otherwise remove materials from your school.
- Do not schedule a separate pickup for each carton.
- Schedule your pickup appointment online at www.mcasservicecenter.com or by using the Materials Management screen of the MCAS Portal. To request a pickup, locate a UPS tracking number on one of the RS labels you are using, and have that number available when you go online. Select **MCAS** from the menu, and then select **UPS Pickup Request** from the list of options. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete your request.
- Requests for pickup on the following business day must be placed by 3:00 p.m. Requests for same-day pickup cannot be fulfilled. Requests made two or more days in advance also cannot be fulfilled.
- If you have regularly scheduled UPS service, you may give your cartons to the UPS driver during normal pickup. If you do so, call the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103 or email mcas@cognia.org to report that the pickup has been made.

2. Keep MCAS test materials in the locked storage area until they are given directly to the UPS driver.

3. Confirm that all test materials are picked up by UPS.

Call the MCAS Service Center immediately at 800-737-5103 if your cartons are not picked up as scheduled. It is also recommended that you use your UPS tracking numbers to confirm delivery of all the cartons for your return shipment to Cognia by calling the MCAS Service Center.

D Next Steps

1. RETAIN the following materials in your school files for three years:

Type of Materials	Materials to Retain
Materials related to the return shipment	• packing slips from your school's shipment • Materials Summary forms • printout of PCPA confirmation(s) • Test Materials Internal Tracking forms • UPS tracking numbers used • printout of UPS pickup request, if applicable • counts of booklets returned in the Return Envelopes • counts of booklets returned in the Special Handling Envelopes and Void Envelopes, if applicable

Appendix B—Procedures for Paper-Based Testing

Type of Materials	Materials to Retain
Materials related to accommodations	• approved Cover Sheet(s) for Submitting Customized Materials for Approval on MCAS STE Tests, if applicable • written approval to use a unique accommodation, if applicable • completed MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgments • completed Student Accommodation Refusal forms (optional) • accommodations lists/spreadsheets, if applicable
Other local records	• agendas, sign-in sheets, and any other relevant documentation from the Test Administrators' Training and the training session for other authorized school staff members to demonstrate that they have been trained and received TAMs and test security requirements • records of test administrators and their students for each session, including make-up and test completion sessions • completed Student Responsibilities during MCAS Testing forms (optional) • seating charts (optional) • Superintendent's Assurance of Proper Test Administration forms, if used • documentation for absences due to medical reasons, if applicable • documentation for students who were removed from or added to the school's enrollment during the test administration • approval for a Request for Permission to Test a Student in an Alternate Setting, if applicable

2. RECYCLE OR DISCARD the following materials:

Materials to Recycle or Discard
• <i>Test Administrator's Manuals</i> • this manual, after the completion of testing • practice tests, including large-print practice tests, if printed • Mathematics Guidelines for Completing Answer Grids, if applicable • Mathematics and Introductory Physics reference sheets • blank cards or cutouts used by students who had UF6 • blank place markers used by students who had UF7 • signs (e.g., Do Not Disturb sign, Prohibited Materials During MCAS Testing sign)

3. SECURELY DESTROY (e.g., by shredding) scratch paper used by students, and indicate on the internal tracking form that this has been done.

Appendix C

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Accessibility and Accommodations



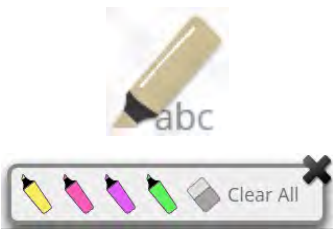
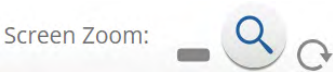
Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Part I: Accessibility Features for All Students

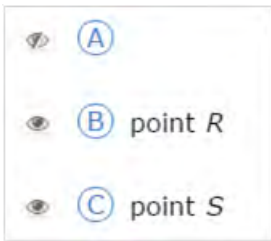
A Universal Accessibility Features (UFs)

Universal Accessibility features are tools and supports that are available to **all** students on the MCAS tests and are either built into the MCAS Student Kiosk (the MCAS computer-based testing platform) or provided by a test administrator on the computer- or paper-based tests. For more information about Universal Accessibility features, see the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility).

Table 1. Universal Accessibility Features Available to All Students

UF#	Computer-Based Testing	Paper-Based Testing
	Icon in the Student Kiosk (if Available)	Description
UF1		Highlighter Highlights text in four colors: yellow, pink, purple, and green. Note: Highlighting will not be retained if the student exits the test, submits the test, pauses the test for more than 60 minutes, or if the test abruptly closes.
UF2		Color contrast Changes the background color and text color during testing.
UF3		Screen zoom tool Enlarges screen content to 150%, 200%, and 300%.
UF4 (SR)		Enlarged pencil/modified writing instrument Students can select an enlarged and colored cursor.
UF5		Tracking device , such as a straight edge or similar tool

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

UF#	Computer-Based Testing		Paper-Based Testing
	Icon in the Student Kiosk (if Available)	Description	Description
UF6		Hiding options tool (available for multiple-choice items) Students can click an icon of an eye to toggle between hiding answer choices and having them reappear.	Mask text or answer(s) using a blank card or cutout
UF7	N/A	Answer eliminator Not available for Fall/Winter tests. (See UF6 for the Hiding Options tool.)	Use a pencil to eliminate answer choices in their booklet (Note: Students should take care not to eliminate answer bubble options, as stray marks will lead to an incorrect score.)
UF8		Item flag/Bookmark Students can select the star icon to save a question to come back to later and can select the down arrow to access a review screen to navigate to another test question.	Use a blank place marker to mark a question for later review (Note: Sticky notes are <i>not</i> allowed.)
UF9	Audio aid (e.g., amplification device) (Note: Smartphones may not be used.)		
UF10		Notepad Students can type in their own notes on each test question. The notepad is now available for all subject-area tests. Note: Notes written in the notepad will not be retained if the student exits the test, submits the test, pauses the test for more than 60 minutes, or if the test abruptly closes.	Scratch paper is required for all students
UF11	Test administrator reads aloud selected words (or signs selected words , in the case of a student who is Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing), as requested by the student (not permitted on ELA tests). The student may point to a word or phrase and request the word to be read aloud or signed. Test administrator quietly reads aloud or signs the selected word(s) or phrase; test administrator may not explain or define words. Students using this feature may be tested alongside other students in groups of any size.		
UF12	Test administrator redirects the student's attention to the test without coaching or assisting the student to answer any questions (e.g., test administrator reminds student to stay focused; it is not permissible to say, "Add more to your response" or "Make sure to answer all questions.")		
UF13	Test administrator repeats or clarifies general test administration directions from the appropriate Test Administrator's Manual scripts to the student, as needed.		

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

UF#	Computer-Based Testing		Paper-Based Testing
	Icon in the Student Kiosk (if Available)	Description	Description
UF14		General masking Students can mask certain parts of the test interface or question. Students can add multiple masking squares, reposition them, and resize them.	Masking Student can use blank paper/index card to mask test content.
UF15		Reverse contrast Students can reverse all colors on screen (e.g., from light to dark).	N/A

B Designated Accessibility Features (DFs)

Most students will be tested in their regular classrooms according to the guidelines and schedule intended for all students. However, principals have the flexibility to test **any** student, including those without identified disabilities and non-ELs, using the designated accessibility features described in Table 2, as long as all requirements for testing conditions, test security, and staffing are met.

It is advisable, although not required, to include designated accessibility features in the IEP or 504 plan of a student with a disability who requires them.

Table 2. Designated Accessibility Features available to any student, at the principal's discretion

#	Designated Accessibility Feature
DF1	Small group test administration (May include up to a total of 10 students.)
DF2	Individual (one-to-one) test administration (Student must be tested in a separate setting.)
DF3	Frequent brief supervised breaks
DF4	Separate or alternate test location (Can be a group of one or more students; the location should be specified, e.g., library, homeroom)
DF5	Seating in a specific area of the testing room, including the use of a study carrel (If listed in an IEP or 504 plan, the specific area should be described.)
DF6	Adaptive or specialized furniture (e.g., seating, desk, or lighting)
DF7	Noise buffer , such as noise-canceling earmuffs/headphones or white noise (Note: Music or other recordings may not be played unless granted as a <i>unique accommodation</i> by DESE.)
DF8	Familiar test administrator
DF9	Student reads test aloud to self: Student must be tested in a separate setting, unless a low-volume device (e.g., a Whisperphone) is used.
DF10	Specific time of day
DF11	“Stop Testing” policy: The student should be given the opportunity to attempt each test session. If the student does not appear to be responding to test questions after a period of 15–20 minutes, the test administrator may ask if the student is finished. If so, the test administrator may collect the student’s test materials and the student can either sit quietly or be excused from the test setting.

Part II: MCAS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

A Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Information about the purpose of accommodations, eligibility and general requirements for accommodations, and updating IEPs and 504 plans can be found in the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility).

1. If a Student Refuses an Accommodation

If a student refuses to use an accommodation listed in their plan during testing, the school should document in writing that the student was offered an accommodation but refused it, and they should keep this documentation on file. The student should be told that the accommodation will remain available during testing if they need it. The student should **not** be asked to sign an agreement acknowledging that they have refused an accommodation, nor should they be asked to waive their right to receive an accommodation that is listed in their IEP or 504 plan. An optional sample form for documenting a student's refusal of an accommodation is available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms.

If the IEP team agrees that the listed accommodation is no longer needed by the student, the accommodation should be removed from the plan at the next scheduled meeting (or should be listed in the plan "as requested by the student"). Written approval must be obtained from the parent/guardian (or student over 18 years of age) for new or amended IEPs before a change in accommodations can go into effect.

Similarly, 504 plans must reflect only those accommodations that are required by the student, as determined by educators familiar with the student. Consent by the parent/guardian is **not** required for a new or amended 504 plan, although the parent/guardian must be notified of any changes.

2. Unique Accommodations Requests

If a student with a disability or an English learner requires an accommodation that is not listed in Tables 1–6, the school may request approval from DESE to use a unique accommodation. Unique accommodations may **not** do any of the following:

- fundamentally change the test or the construct being measured by the test
- assist the student in obtaining the answers to test questions
- violate test security requirements

The school may request approval (via email) for the use of a unique accommodation by submitting the request to mcas@mass.gov **at least two weeks prior to testing**. If approved by DESE, the IEP or 504 plan of the student must include the approved unique accommodation.

3. Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms

Test administrators for students using certain accommodations must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment prior to testing. The form can be downloaded from www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms and is required for the administration of the following accommodations:

A2, A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, A5, A6.1, A8, A10.1, A10.2, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, SAA1.2, SAA2, SAA3.1, SAA3.2, SAA6, EL3.2, EL4.1, EL4.2

For more information see "Nondisclosure Acknowledgment Forms" on page 30.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

4. Description of MCAS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Tables 3–5 list the MCAS accommodations available to students with disabilities on the computer-based test, and where applicable, the comparable accommodation on the paper-based test. MCAS accommodations are grouped into the following categories:

- **Test Presentation:** changes to the format in which the test is presented to the student (Table 3);
- **Response:** changes to the procedures, supports, or devices used to facilitate a student's response to test questions (Table 4); and
- **Special Access:** accommodations intended for a small number of students with significant delays in reading, writing, or performing calculations to offset the effects of a disability that would otherwise severely limit or prevent their participation in the assessment, and that may affect the interpretation of the test results (Table 5).

Note: Accommodations listed with the “(SR)” designation in the tables on the following pages must be identified in the Student Registration prior to the start of testing.

The following form-dependent accommodations must be assigned correctly before testing. If not assigned correctly, a student's test will need to be stopped and a new test will need to be set up, and the student may need to retake a portion of the test. More information about these accommodations is available in Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration*.

Form-dependent accommodations for CBT

- Screen Reader
- Spanish/English test edition
- Compatible Assistive Technology
- Human Read-Aloud
- Human Signer

Form-dependent accommodations for PBT

- Large print
- Braille
- Spanish/English test edition

Instructions for completing the Student Registration are available in Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration*.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Table 3. Test Presentation Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Test Presentation Accommodations		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A1 (SR)	Paper-based edition of the MCAS test may be administered as an accommodation to a student who is unable to use a computer or take the computer-based test due to a disability. (Note: This must be listed as an accommodation in the student's IEP or 504 plan.)	N/A
A2 (SR)	N/A (See UF3 and UF4 in Table 1 on page 88 for information on screen magnification and enlarged cursor/pointer tool.)	Large print Large-print materials will be presented as approximately 24-point font size in landscape format 11" x 8.5" paper: • Large-print special instructions will accompany the large-print test. • Either the student or the test administrator must transcribe the student's responses verbatim from the large-print test & answer booklet into the standard test & answer booklet. (See additional procedures listed in section 8 in this appendix.) •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation A2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.
A3.1 (SR) A3.2 (SR) A3.3 (SR)	A3.1 – Screen reader: ONLY for a student who is blind and uses the assistive technology program JAWS or NVDA. • A separate hard-copy Braille edition test with the appropriate Braille graphics will automatically be sent for this accommodation. • All responses must be entered onscreen, either by the student or test administrator. •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation A3.1 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	A3.2 – Braille edition (hard copy) • All answers must be either scribed or transcribed verbatim into the student's standard booklet and returned according to instructions in this manual so the student will receive credit. (See additional procedures listed in section 8 in this appendix.) • Braille special instructions will accompany the Braille test. •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation A3.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Test Presentation Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A3.1 (SR) A3.2 (SR) A3.3 (SR) <i>continued</i>	A3.3 – Assistive Technology: Students who are not blind but use JAWS, NVDA, and ZoomText may use this form to allow their assistive technology program to integrate with the computer-based test. A separate hard-copy Braille edition test will not be automatically sent; schools that need one should call the MCAS Service Center to request one. ⚠ See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. - See Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility for additional guidelines for using assistive technology. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A3.3 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
	Note for A3.1, A3.2, and A3.3 Previewing Braille test content by test administrators: Under secure conditions supervised by the principal, Braille test administrators may review Braille test materials up to four days prior to testing once they are received by the school for the purpose of preparing to orient the student. Test materials may not be removed from the school.	
A4 (SR)	Text-to-Speech (TTS): computer reads text aloud for Mathematics and Science (not ELA) - For students who require that text be read aloud, IEP teams should consider whether TTS is preferable to a Human Reader (or vice versa). Human Read-Aloud provides the same accessibility support as TTS, and the two can be used interchangeably, unless otherwise specified (e.g., “Text-to-Speech is preferable, but Human Reader is acceptable”). Note: In cases where a student receives a Text-to-Speech accommodation and a Human Read-Aloud accommodation, the Student Registration file should only include the Text-to-Speech designation, which ensures that the student receives the correct Text-to-Speech functionality. - TTS may be used either with headphones or without headphones in a separate setting.	N/A

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Test Presentation Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A4 (SR) <i>continued</i>	- Students should view the tutorial and take an online TTS practice test prior to testing. Note: TTS for ELA is a special access accommodation (SAA1.1). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation.	
A5 (SR)	Human Read-Aloud for Mathematics and Science (not ELA) Human Read-Aloud provides the same accessibility support as TTS, and the two can be used interchangeably unless otherwise specified (e.g., “Text-to-Speech is preferable, but Human Reader is acceptable”). Note: For computer-based testing, schools may choose to have test administrators read the test over the student’s shoulder, or create test administrator logins so that test administrators can sign in to their own test on their own device in order to read aloud. Note: In cases where a student receives a Text-to-Speech accommodation and a Human Read-Aloud accommodation, the Student Registration file should only include the Text-to-Speech designation, which ensures that the student receives the correct Text-to-Speech functionality. - If using test administrator logins, test administrators will need their own computer to sign in to their own version of the test. (Students will sign in and record responses using their student logins.) Note: Reading aloud the ELA tests is a special access accommodation (SAA1). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation. - For additional procedures, including instructions on creating test administrator logins, refer to section 7 in this appendix.  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A5 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A6.1 (SR)	Human Signer for the Mathematics test, Science tests, and for ELA test questions (but not ELA reading passages) Note: For computer-based testing, schools may choose to have test administrators read the test over the student’s shoulder, or they may choose to create test administrator logins so that test administrators can sign in to their own test on their own device in order to sign. - If using test administrator logins, test administrators will need their own computer to sign in to their own version of the test. (Students will sign in and record responses using their student logins.) - For instructions on creating test administrator logins, refer to section 7 in this appendix. - The test must be signed exactly as it appears. The signer may not provide assistance to the student regarding the meaning of words, intent of any test question, or how to respond to any test questions. The signer may finger-spell key words in addition to providing the sign for a term. The signer may sign emphasis only when indicated by bold or italicized text. - The test must be administered either individually or to a small group of 2–5 students receiving the Human Signer accommodation.	

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Test Presentation Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A6.1 (SR) <i>continued</i>	- If preferred, selected words, phrases, or sections may be signed to the student, as requested, rather than signing the entire test. Signing the ELA reading passages is a special access accommodation (SAA2). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation. Previewing test content by Human Signers: Under secure conditions supervised by the principal, interpreters may review test materials up to four days prior to testing (unless given special permission for an earlier review). Test materials may not be removed from the school nor accessed online outside of the school.  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A6.1 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A6.2 (SR)	ASL Video for computer-based testing Not available for Fall/Winter tests. (See A6.1 for Human Signer.)	N/A (See A6.1 for Human Signer)
A7	Human Signer for test directions only (from the appropriate <i>Test Administrator's Manual</i> scripts) for a student who is Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing	
A8	Track student progress by assisting the student to move from one test question to the next - Students requiring this accommodation may have attention challenges and require supports and redirection to participate in multi-page assessments. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A8 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	

Table 4. Response Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Response Accommodations		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A9 (SR)	Use of approved graphic organizers, checklists, or supplemental reference sheets: Only the approved ELA organizers and supplemental mathematics reference sheets made available by DESE (posted in PDF format at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility/organizers) may be used as accommodations on ELA and Mathematics tests. These have been developed for use on MCAS tests based on the most current versions of the curriculum framework standards measured by the tests, the MCAS test design, expectations for how student essays and text-based responses will be scored, and educator input. Exception: ELA graphic organizers without text (e.g., paper with only lines, arrows and dots) may be used without DESE approval by students who have this accommodation listed in their IEP or 504 plans. For Science, students may use a sample reference sheet or schools may submit a customized reference sheet for DESE approval by the following deadline: February High School Science – January 9, 2026	

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Response Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A9 (SR) <i>continued</i>	Notes: - Individualized reference sheets approved prior to the 2023–24 school year must be resubmitted for approval for use on the 2026 Science tests. - All science reference sheets submitted for approval must be accompanied by a completed cover sheet (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility/organizers). - Students may not use reference sheets that have already been filled out prior to the beginning of the test administration, and test administrators must check to confirm that they are providing students with blank sheets.	
A10.1 (SR)	Scribe responses (A10.1) for Mathematics and Science (not ELA) A human scribe will record the student’s responses verbatim (i.e., as dictated or signed by the student) <i>at the time of testing</i>, either on the computer-based test or in the student’s paper-based test. The student must be tested in a separate setting. (See section 8 in this appendix for specific guidance on providing the scribe accommodation.) For students with motor, processing, or expressive language difficulties, or who have had a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm): - DESE approval is not required for using a scribe with a 504 plan that is under development for student with a recent injury. Scribing responses for ELA is a special access accommodation (SAA3.1). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A10.1 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A10.2 (SR)	Speech-to-text (A10.2) for Mathematics and Science (not ELA) Students use a computer-based voice recognition program (other than a smartphone) that generates responses by converting speech into text. - A speech-to-text accommodation provides the same access as a human scribe, and the two can be used interchangeably, unless otherwise specified. - If the student will use both scribe and speech-to-text on one test, schools should select speech-to-text during Student Registration or in the MCAS Portal user interface instead of human scribe. - All answers must be either scribed or transcribed verbatim into the student’s standard booklet and returned according to instructions in the PAM so the student will receive credit. - Students who use speech-to-text will need headphones/Whisperphones unless they are tested individually in a separate setting. Note: Speech-to-text for ELA is a special access accommodation (SAA3.2). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation. Refer to Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for a step-by-step guide on accessing and using this feature. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A10.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Response Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A11	Responses recorded by student on special paper or specialized device: - Responses must be transcribed into the student’s computer-based test or test & answer booklet by a test administrator <i>anytime during the testing window</i>. Students who transcribe their own responses must do so <i>during the test session</i> and must finish on the day in which the test session began. - See additional procedures listed in section 8 in this appendix. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A11 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A12 (SR)	N/A	Typed responses: - Responses must be printed out, one per page, and inserted in the student’s test & answer booklet with all required header information typed on each page (see section 9 in this appendix and the “Sample MCAS Typed Response Template” on page 110). - Schools should not transcribe students’ responses into their test & answer booklet. - After being printed, responses must be deleted from the device. - Test administrators for students using accommodation A12 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.
A13	Student records responses on a device (other than a smartphone) for the purpose of playing back and transcribing the recorded segment(s). Students that use stand-alone Text-to-Speech software or an audio recording device to listen to their draft response should also have accommodation A11 listed in their IEP or 504 plan. Responses must be deleted from the device once they have been transcribed into the student’s test. Test administrators for students using accommodation A13 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A14	Responses signed onto video (for a student who is Deaf or Hard-of Hearing) , then transcribed by the student onscreen or into the test & answer booklet during playback. The video must be deleted after transcription. Test administrators for students using accommodation A14 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Response Accommodations <i>continued</i>		
#	Computer-Based Test	Paper-Based Test
A15	Monitor placement of responses in the appropriate area onscreen or in the test & answer booklet by the test administrator. Test administrators for students using accommodation A15 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.	
A16	Refreshable Braille Display/Braille note-taker (specific external device used in conjunction with screen reader for student who is blind or has a vision impairment) A hard-copy edition of the Braille test must also be ordered, and the screen reader test must be selected.	Braille note-taker (specific external device used in conjunction with hard-copy Braille test) Braille notes should be placed in the school's return shipment.
A17	Braille writer (specific external device used in conjunction with screen reader and hard-copy Braille test) A hard-copy edition of the Braille test must also be ordered and the screen reader test must be selected.	Braille writer (specific external device used in conjunction with the hard-copy Braille test) A printout of each response may be generated and inserted in the student's test & answer booklet, with all required information on each page (see section 9 in this appendix for more information).
A18 (SR)	Word Prediction for Mathematics and Science (not ELA) An assistive technology tool for writing that provides a list of suggested words for the student to select based on letters typed by the student. Note: The word prediction tool is embedded into the MCAS Student Kiosk. See Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) if attempting to use a school-owned word prediction application. Note: Word Prediction for ELA is a special access accommodation (SAA6). See Table 5 for guidelines and criteria to receive this accommodation.	

5. Special Access Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Special access accommodations are intended for use by a **very small number of students with significant delays in word decoding/reading, writing, or performing basic numerical calculations** who would not otherwise be able to access the test because a disability severely limits or prevents them from performing the skill in question. Teams must exercise caution when considering whether a student requires a special access accommodation, since these accommodations alter part of what the test is designed to measure. Teams must carefully review the guidelines and criteria described for each special access accommodation listed in Table 5.

Test results for students who take the test using special access accommodations should be interpreted with caution. Parents/guardians and schools should not infer that the student has expertise in the skill being accommodated. A notation will accompany the results of students who use a special access accommodation.

DESE continues to review each district's rate of use of special access accommodations.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Although test accommodations should generally be consistent with accommodations used for instruction, the use of a special access accommodation during instruction does not automatically qualify a student to receive the same accommodation on an MCAS test, unless the student meets the guidelines and criteria described in Table 5 and on the following pages.

IEP and 504 teams should make consistent, appropriate, and defensible decisions regarding the use of special access accommodations for each student, based on locally administered diagnostic assessments. Teams should amend the IEPs and 504 plans of students who have been previously designated for special access accommodations, but do not meet the criteria listed in Table 5.

Schools should be careful to provide special access accommodations only to students who are entitled to them. Students who receive these accommodations but do not have them listed in their IEPs **are likely to have their tests invalidated**.

Table 5. Special Access Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Special Access Accommodations	
#	Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
SAA1.1 (SR) and SAA1.2 (SR)	Text-to-Speech (SAA1.1) or Human Read-Aloud (SAA1.2) for the ELA tests, including oral presentation of test questions, response options, and passages - Text-to-Speech may be used either with or without headphones. If headphones are used, the student may be tested in a typical-sized group. If headphones are not used, the student must be tested individually. - Text-to-Speech and Human Read-Aloud may be used interchangeably, unless otherwise specified. Note: In cases where a student receives a Text-to-Speech accommodation and a Human Read-Aloud accommodation, the Student Registration file should only include the Text-to-Speech designation, which ensures that the student receives the correct Text-to-Speech functionality. - A Human Reader may either read aloud from the computer-based test (signed in to a nearby computer or sitting next to the student) or from the paper-based test. A Human Reader may read aloud to a group of up to five students.
	This accommodation is intended for a very small number of students with disabilities that severely limit or prevent them from reading, as documented in locally administered diagnostic evaluations. To receive the Text-to-Speech or Human Read-Aloud accommodation for ELA tests, the student must meet all of the following criteria: - be virtually unable to read, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is at the beginning stages of learning to read, and not simply reading below grade level), as determined by locally administered diagnostic evaluations (reading below the second grade-level) - receive ongoing intervention to learn the skill of reading - use this accommodation routinely (except during instruction in learning to read) The Human Read-Aloud (SAA1.2) may also be provided to a student who is blind or has a visual impairment and uses a screen reader and/or is unable to use Braille on the tests listed above. If the student will use a screen reader and if the screen reader accommodation is indicated, a separate hard copy Braille test edition will be sent to the school to allow the student to access the appropriate Braille graphics (see accommodation A3.1).  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Special Access Accommodations <i>continued</i>	
#	Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
SAA1.1 (SR) and SAA1.2 (SR) <i>continued</i>	• Note: For computer-based testing, schools may choose to have test administrators read the test over the student's shoulder, or create test administrator logins so that test administrators can sign in to their own test on their own device in order to read aloud. • If using test administrator logins, test administrators will need their own computer to sign in to their own version of the test. (Students will sign in and record responses using their student testing logins.) • For additional procedures on SAA1.2, including instructions on creating test administrator logins, refer to section 7 in this appendix. • Test administrators for students using accommodation SAA1.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.
SAA2 (SR)	Human Signer for ELA, including reading passages, questions, and answer options: This accommodation is intended for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and who are severely limited or prevented from reading, as documented in locally administered diagnostic evaluations. The student must meet all the following criteria: • be virtually unable to read (i.e., decode text), even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is at the very beginning stages of learning to read, and not simply reading below grade level), due to a documented disability and/or history of early and prolonged lack of exposure to and use of language • use this accommodation routinely, except during reading instruction • receive ongoing intervention to learn the skill The student must be tested in a group of no more than five students, unless approval is obtained from DESE to increase the group size in rare circumstances. For additional procedures related to SAA2, including instructions on creating test administrator logins, refer to section 7 in this appendix. • Note: For computer-based testing, schools may choose to have test administrators read the test over the student's shoulder, or create test administrator logins so that test administrators can sign in to their own test on their own device in order to read aloud. • If using test administrator logins, test administrators will need their own computer to sign in to their own version of the test (students will sign in and record responses using their student logins). •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation SAA2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Special Access Accommodations <i>continued</i>	
#	Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
SAA3.1 (SR)	Scribe responses for ELA: A human scribe (SAA3.1) will record the student’s responses verbatim (i.e., as dictated by the student) at the time of testing, either onscreen (computer-based test) or in the student’s test & answer booklet (paper-based test). This accommodation is intended for students who have the following: • documented significant motor or processing difficulties • a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that makes it difficult to produce responses For many of these students, dictating to a scribe is the only way to demonstrate their composition skills. Students will dictate their responses to a human, who will then record the students’ responses verbatim. A human scribe and speech-to-text provide the same access and can be used interchangeably, if the student is familiar with the features. Students should be allowed to develop planning notes via the scribe and to view the scribed material. The student must be tested in a separate setting. • See section 8 in this appendix for specific guidance on providing the scribe accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation SAA3.1 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment(see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.
SAA3.2 (SR)	Speech-to-text (SAA3.2) for ELA: Students use a speech recognition program that converts voice to written text. This accommodation is intended for students who have the following: • documented significant motor or processing difficulties • a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that makes it difficult to produce responses • Students taking the computer-based test will be able to use an embedded speech-to-text tool that functions within the MCAS Student Kiosk. This embedded assistive technology will allow students to dictate their responses directly into the computer-based test without using a separate adjacent (external) device. Refer to Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for a step-by-step guide on accessing and using this feature. › If students use their own AT devices, all assessment content must be deleted from these devices after the test for security purposes. • Students who use speech-to-text will need headphones/Whisperphones, unless they are tested individually in a separate setting. This accommodation is intended for students who have significant challenges producing written text, which can result from significant motor or processing difficulties. •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation SAA3.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Special Access Accommodations <i>continued</i>	
#	Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
SAA4 (SR)	Calculation device (including addition/subtraction or multiplication/ division tables) on a <i>noncalculator session</i> for Mathematics: Students taking the computer-based test will be able to use an embedded calculator (or a handheld calculator). This accommodation is intended for a small number of students with documented disabilities that severely limit or prevent them from performing basic calculations without a calculation device or other mathematics tool, as documented in locally administered diagnostic evaluations, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so. The student must meet the following criteria: • be virtually unable to calculate (i.e., unable to perform single-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division without a calculation device or other mathematics tool) • use the calculation device or tool during routine instruction in mathematics • receive ongoing intervention to learn the skill Students using handheld calculators to fulfill SAA4 should be tested in their own group to minimize confusion during test administration.
SAA5 (SR)	Spell-checker for the ELA tests, including an external spell-checking device for the paper-based test; or in conjunction with the typed response accommodation for the paper-based test: This accommodation is intended for a small number of students with disabilities that severely limit or prevent them from spelling correctly, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so. The student must meet the following criteria: • be unable to spell simple words (i.e., at the beginning stages of learning how to spell), as documented by locally administered diagnostic evaluations • produce understandable written work only when provided this accommodation, which the student uses during routine instruction • receive ongoing intervention to learn the skill The student may <i>not</i> use grammar check or access the internet during the test.
SAA6 (SR)	Word prediction for ELA, which provides a choice of frequently used words after the student types the first few letters of a word: Students using the word prediction special access accommodation for the computer-based ELA test will be able to use an embedded word prediction that functions within the MCAS Student Kiosk. Refer to Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for a step-by-step guide to accessing and using this feature. For paper-based tests, a word prediction application must be used at a separate external computer station, and a test administrator or the student must transcribe the selected word(s) into the student’s test & answer booklet. (See section 8 in this appendix for information and guidelines on transcribing student responses.)

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Special Access Accommodations <i>continued</i>	
#	Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
SAA6 (SR) <i>continued</i>	This accommodation is intended for a small number of students who meet the following criteria: • have a disability that results in significant challenges to generate written responses • requires access to word prediction to produce basic written expression commensurate with the student's skills •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation SAA6 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.

6. Procedures for Students Who Use a Cell Phone or Smartwatch to Monitor Medical Information

For students with medical conditions who use a cell phone or smartwatch to monitor their health (e.g., a student with diabetes who uses a continuous glucose monitor [CGM] or insulin pump, or a student with a heart condition who uses a heart monitor), DESE recommends that the school test coordinator consult with the school nurse, and that the school nurse follow the student's Individual Health Care Plan and/or 504 plan/IEP in regard to remote medical monitoring.

A student may have a cell phone or smartwatch with them during testing in order to monitor medical information, **provided that the student is tested in a small group (no more than 10 students) or individually** so that the test administrator can closely monitor the student and ensure that the device is not used for any other purpose.

7. Procedures for Using Test Accommodations A5, A6.1, SAA1.2, SAA2, and EL3.2: Human Read-Aloud or Human Signer

The test administrator may read the test aloud or sign the test to a small group of students, provided that each student has an IEP, 504 plan, or EL plan that lists either accommodation A5/A6.1/EL3.2 (for Mathematics or Science) or special access accommodation SAA1.2/SAA2 (for the ELA tests). Reading the ELA tests aloud to a student who is not entitled to special access accommodation SAA1.2 will result in the student's test results being invalidated, so be sure that any students receiving that accommodation are eligible.

The procedures below must be followed:

- No more than five students may be grouped together for reading tests aloud or signing the tests, since students typically proceed through the test at different rates.
- See the appendices in the CBT TAM for instructions on how to administer these accommodations for computer-based testing.
- For CBT, test administrators may read over a student's shoulder, or a school may create test administrator logins.
- For PBT, student booklets may not be opened or reviewed by students or test administrators prior to testing.
- For PBT, test administrators should read aloud to the students using a booklet from the school's shipment; the shipment includes an overage and all booklets will be the same test form.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Setting up Human Read-Aloud/Human Signer Sessions with Test Administrator Logins

The test administrator login will allow the test administrator to sign in to the test on the MCAS Student Kiosk to see the same test questions that their students see, to be able to read aloud or sign the test to their students. **Responses should not be entered using a test administrator login; all test administrator login tests will be voided at the end of testing.**

- There are two options for creating a test administrator login in the MCAS Portal.

Option 1: Manually add a student to the MCAS Portal on the Students page using the field definitions outlined below.

Option 2: Add the test administrator login as a student during the Student Registration file upload.

Test administrator logins should use the following field definitions. Any fields not listed below should be left blank.

Column of Student Registration file	Field Name	Field notes
A	District code	The testing district
B	School code	The testing school
C	SASID	Begin with your 8-digit school code. Add "01", "02", etc. to the end of your school code for each test administrator login needed. Example: For a school whose code is 77665555, their test administrator login SASIDs would be 7766555501, 7766555502, 7766555503, etc.
D	Student grade	The grade level for the test that is being administered
E	Last name	Enter in "TA LOGIN"
F	First name	The test administrator's first name
I	Date of birth	Enter in "01/01/1900"
J	Test code	The test code for the test that is being administered
L	Test format	"O"
Select Y for one of the following if administering the Human Read Aloud accommodation:		
T	Human Read Aloud Standard	"Y" if administering Math, STE, or Civics
Z	Human Read Aloud Special	"Y" if administering ELA
Select Y for one of the following if administering the Human Signer accommodation:		
U	Human Signer Standard	"Y" if administering Math, STE, or Civics
AA	Human Signer Special	"Y" if administering ELA

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

2. Once the test administrator logins have been added to the MCAS Portal, create a class for the students requiring a human read aloud or human signer accommodation for that content area. See additional information on creating classes in Part V of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Creating and Managing Classes*, available on the MCAS Resource Center (mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal) this fall.
 - a. Add the appropriate student(s) to the class.
 - b. Add the test administrator login to the class.
 - c. Save the class.
3. Schedule the class to take the appropriate test. See additional information on scheduling tests in the *Guide to the MCAS Portal*, available on the [MCAS Resource Center](#) this fall.

Instructions on Using Test Administrator Logins: During and After Testing

1. Ensure all students, including the test administrator login, are assigned the human read aloud (or human signer) accommodated form.

To view the form a student or test administrator is assigned to for a test, navigate to the Test Scheduling page in the Administration section of the MCAS Portal. Then select the organization, program, content area, and test from the selection drop-down, the list will update to show classes scheduled for the selected test. Then select the View Details/Student Logins link for the class scheduled, view the forms on the Scheduled Tests details page under the Form Name column for each student, as shown in the screenshot below.

☐	Last Name	First Name	Username	Password	Form Name	Date/Time Created	Test Report Code	Status
☐	Student	James	1888446157	2yadhfs	MAT08-HumanSigner-Form1	11/18/2024 4:12:58 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started
☐	Student	Steven	3557280177	hkuz3qyf	MAT08-HumanReadAloud-Form1	11/18/2024 4:12:58 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started

2. After testing, school test coordinators should void the test administrator login tests.

8. Guidelines for Scribing and Transcribing Student Responses

Administering the Human Scribe Accommodation

- A scribe may administer this accommodation only to **one student at a time** during a test session. The student must be tested in a separate setting.
- If scribing responses into a paper-based booklet, the scribe must produce legible text. For computer-based tests, the scribe will type directly into the student's computer-based test.
- The scribe must transcribe the student's responses verbatim and may not prompt, correct, or question the student regarding the content of the responses.
- The scribe may request that the student restate (or sign) words, phrases, or sentences, as needed. The scribe may not edit or alter the student's dictated response in any way.
- A student using a scribe must be given the same opportunities as other students to plan and draft a written response. The scribe may write an outline, plan, or draft as directed by the student, and must record the draft response or outline exactly as dictated.

Additional Guidance for Scribing ELA Tests (SAA3.1)

- The scribe will spell all words correctly.
- The scribe will assume all sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a period. Other than that, at the beginning of a sentence the scribe should request clarification from the student about the use of capitalization and punctuation. The scribe must also allow the student to review and edit what the scribe has written.
- The scribe will orally confirm spelling of homonyms and commonly confused homophones, e.g., *than* and *then*; *to*, *two*, and *too*; *there*, *their*, and *they're*.
- After the student has finished dictating their response(s), the scribe must do the following:
 - › ask the student to review the draft and make any necessary edits, including capitalization, punctuation, and paragraph breaks.
 - › either allow the student to make edits independently or have the student direct the scribe to make the edits.
 - › not assist the student in making decisions during the editing process.
- The scribe will make student requested changes, even if incorrect.
- The student will confirm the correctness of the response.

Transcribing Student Responses

Circumstances may occur during test administration that may require a test administrator to **transcribe** a student's responses onscreen or in their test & answer booklet. These situations may include the following:

- Answers were recorded in an incorrectly assigned computer-based test or test & answer booklet, or in the wrong section of a test.
- A student took the test using a special test format requiring that answers be transcribed; e.g., Braille or large-print. (Braille responses must be transcribed by persons fluent in Braille.)
- A student used speech-to-text software, or augmentative communication, or an assistive technology device **that is not compatible with the MCAS Student Kiosk** and printed their responses for transcription by a test administrator.
- A student recorded answers on blank paper as an accommodation, instead of in the computer-based test or test & answer booklet.
- The test & answer booklet or document became unusable (e.g., torn, wrinkled, or contaminated).

If a student's responses must be transcribed after test administration is completed, the following steps must be followed:

- At least two persons must be present during the transcription of student responses. At least one of the individuals must be an authorized test administrator; the other should be the principal or the principal's designee.
- One of these persons will be the transcriber, and the other will be an observer confirming the accuracy of the transcription.
- The student's response must be transcribed verbatim into the booklet or computer-based test.
- The student's original printed responses must either be securely shredded or be placed in the school's return shipment.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

9. Procedures for Submitting Typed Responses for Paper-Based Testing (Accommodation A12)

General Information

A student's response to each test question (including all sub-parts — e.g., a, b, c, d) must be submitted entirely using one of the following methods:

- typed on paper and inserted inside the front cover of the student's booklet;
- written by the student; or
- transcribed into the student's test & answer booklet (if the student also used accommodation A10/A10.2, SAA3.2, or EL4.1/4.2).

All of the responses for an individual student do not need to be submitted using the same method. **Regardless of which method is used, submit only one response per question.**

Only responses to constructed-response, short-answer, and essay questions may be submitted as typed responses. A student's responses to multiple-choice questions must be marked in the student's standard booklet.

Any draft responses are to be marked "DRAFT" and placed in the return shipment.

Before Test Administration

1. Provide a standard booklet along with appropriate tracking documents to each test administrator.
2. Ensure that test administrators understand and follow the instructions in the PBT TAM regarding the following:
 - security information, including the prohibition against students accessing the internet
 - formatting requirements (See requirements below and the template at the end of this appendix. Also see Appendix D in the PBT TAM for further instructions.)
 - instructions for submitting a typed response for the Mathematics or Science administrations for students using a graphic in their response to a question
 - scripts in the TAM to be read aloud to students
3. Disable access to the internet from the student's device. If a student will be using an electronic tablet, please contact DESE prior to testing.

Formatting Requirements

- Use a font size between 8-point (minimum) and 12-point (maximum).
- Set margins to be one inch.
- Set line-spacing to be single-spaced.

IMPORTANT—Page limits:

For ELA responses:

- The booklets will indicate the number of pages available for written responses. Do not exceed these page limits.

For Mathematics and Science responses:

- Submit a separate page for each constructed-response or short-answer question.
- A maximum of one page may be submitted for each response.

After Test Administration

A student's responses to multiple-choice questions cannot be submitted as typed responses. Instead, they must be marked by the student or transcribed into the standard booklet.

Otherwise, the student will not receive credit.

1. Fill in all information requested on the front and back covers of the student's standard booklet, including the circle for accommodation A12 on the inside back cover.
2. Refer to Appendix D in the PBT TAM for instructions on preparing typed responses for submission.
3. Mark drafts of typed responses "DRAFT" and place them in the return shipment.
4. Ensure that all student responses are deleted from the computer by test administrators according to the instructions in the TAM.
5. Submit the standard booklet according to the instructions in Appendix B of this manual.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Sample MCAS Typed Response Template

Student Name: Jonathan Ward

Student SASID: 1012345678

Booklet Serial Number*: 1234567890

Subject: English Language Arts

Question Number: 35

In this area, the student will type the response to the test question.

For more information, see the formatting requirements in this appendix.

** (located on the lower right corner of the test & answer booklet or answer booklet front cover)*

Part III: Testing Procedures and Accommodations for EL Students

A Participation Requirements for EL Students

EL students must be given the same opportunities as all other students to participate in the retests for scholarship purposes or for the Seal of Biliteracy. Questions regarding the identification screening, placement, and reclassification of EL students should be directed to the Office of English Language Acquisition at 781-338-3584 or via email at el@doe.mass.edu. For additional details, refer to the Guidance on Identification, Assessment, Placement, and Reclassification of English Learners (www.doe.mass.edu/ele/guidance/?section=guidance).

B Use of Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionaries and Glossaries by EL Students on MCAS Tests

EL students, including those who have ever been identified as ELs in the past, but are no longer reported as ELs, may use an authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionary or glossary on the following MCAS tests:

- ELA—authorized word-to-word dictionary (if available)
- Mathematics—authorized word-to-word dictionary and glossary (if available)
- Science—authorized word-to-word dictionary and glossary (if available)

Bilingual dictionary and glossary use for MCAS tests is limited to those that provide word-to-word translations. Dictionaries and glossaries that include definitions, synonyms, antonyms, phrases, sample sentences, handwritten notes, and other information are prohibited.

Schools are strongly encouraged to provide word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries for students who do not bring their own to the test administration.

A list of authorized bilingual dictionaries and glossaries is available on DESE's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility. To discuss the approval of a word-to-word dictionary not included in the list, please call 781-338-3625.

See Appendix G of the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations* (posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for information about using electronic bilingual word-to-word dictionaries for MCAS testing.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

C Accommodations for EL Students

In addition to universal features and designated features available to all students, the accommodations listed in Table 6 are available to all ELs, either with or without disabilities, on MCAS tests.

Note that **some** EL accommodations must be **requested in advance** in the Student Registration. The names of accommodations and the process for their selection are identical to accommodations for students with disabilities, although the EL accommodations have a unique code (e.g., EL1).

Table 6. Accommodations for Students Who Are ELs

#	Accommodations for EL Students
EL1 (SR)	Paper-based edition: ELs in their first year of schooling in the U.S. or ELs with little or no familiarity with technology may take the MCAS paper-based test as an accommodation. • ELs should have the opportunity to take computer-based practice tests prior to selecting the paper-based test. • Administering the ELA test to a first-year EL is <i>optional</i>.
EL2	Approved Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionary and Glossary (English/native language) • This accommodation is available to students who are currently or were ever reported as ELs. • Paper bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries are permitted during MCAS testing. Schools should make sure that EL students are familiar with and comfortable using these paper editions. • Schools that currently use e-book versions, such as from wordtoward.com, in regular instruction and classroom assessments may use them during MCAS testing. See Appendix G of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> (posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility) for information about using electronic bilingual word-to-word dictionaries for MCAS testing.
EL3.1 (SR) and EL3.2 (SR)	Text-to-Speech (TTS) (EL3.1) computer reads text aloud for Mathematics and Science (not ELA): • The TTS and Human Read-Aloud accommodations provide the same access and can be used interchangeably, if necessary. • Note: In cases where a student receives a Text-to-Speech accommodation and a Human Read-Aloud accommodation, the Student Registration file should only include the Text-to-Speech designation, which ensures that the student receives the correct Text-to-Speech functionality. • TTS is in English only. Human Read-Aloud (EL 3.2) for Mathematics and Science (not ELA): • The test must be administered in a separate setting either individually or to a group of 2–5 students all of whom are receiving the Human Reader accommodation. See Appendix C of the CBT TAM and section 7 in this appendix for more information about providing the Human Read-Aloud accommodation. •  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. • Test administrators for students using accommodation EL3.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering this accommodation.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

#	Accommodations for EL Students <i>continued</i>
EL4.1 (SR) and EL4.2 (SR)	Scribe or speech-to-text for Mathematics or Science test responses (not ELA), consisting either of: - a human scribe (EL4.1), who records student’s responses verbatim at the time of testing. See section 8 in this appendix for specific guidance on providing the scribe accommodation; or - a speech-to-text (EL4.2) computer program that converts voice to written text A speech-to-text accommodation provides the same access as a human scribe, and the two can be used interchangeably, unless otherwise specified. Students using the speech-to-text accommodation for the high school Biology test will be able to use an embedded speech-to-text feature that functions within the MCAS Student Kiosk.  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation. - Test administrators for students using accommodation EL4.1 or EL4.2 must sign an MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment (see www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms) before administering these accommodations.
EL5	Test administrator reads aloud/repeats/clarifies general administration directions in English (from the appropriate <i>Test Administrator’s Manual</i> scripts)
EL6	Test administrator reads aloud/repeats/clarifies general administration directions (from the appropriate <i>Test Administrator’s Manual</i> scripts) in student’s native language , if a native-language speaker is available
EL7	Spanish/English edition of the Mathematics test and the Biology and Introductory Physics tests: - Spanish/English tests are available in computer- and paper-based formats. The computer-based tests consist of stacked text, Spanish text above English text; paper-based tests consist of Spanish and English on facing pages (side-by-side). - These tests are intended for Spanish-speaking ELs who have been in the U.S. less than 3 years. - Students may respond either in Spanish or English. (Note that for all other MCAS tests, students may respond only in English.) - When signing in to the computer-based Spanish/English test, students may select the language (Spanish or English) in which they would like to see the MCAS Student Kiosk icons and directions. This selection is made prior to entering the test.  See Part III of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration</i> for important information about assigning this accommodation.
EL8 (SR)	Word prediction for Mathematics and Science tests, which provides a choice of frequently used words after the student types the first few letters of a word: - Students using the word prediction accommodation for the computer-based Mathematics and Science tests will be able to use an embedded word prediction that functions within the MCAS Student Kiosk. Refer to Appendix E of the <i>Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–26 MCAS Test Administrations</i> for a step-by-step guide on accessing and using this feature. - For paper-based tests, a word prediction application must be used at a separate external computer, and a test administrator or the student must transcribe the selected word(s) into the student’s test & answer booklet.

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Table 7 provides guidance regarding the suitability of EL accommodations based on the English language proficiency (ELP) level of the student.

Table 7. Guidance on Selecting Accommodations for English Learners

#	Accommodation	Level of Proficiency		
		Beginning	Intermediate	Advanced
Key	● Highly recommended for use by English learners at this ELP level ⊙ Recommended for use by English learners at this ELP level ○ May not be appropriate for students at this ELP level			
EL1	Paper-based editions for ELs with low levels of English proficiency and/or no familiarity with technology who are in their first calendar year of enrollment in a U.S. school	⊙	○	○
EL2	Approved bilingual word-to-word dictionary and glossary (English/native language)	○	●	●
EL3.1 and EL3.2	Text-to-Speech for the computer-based Mathematics or Science tests (in English only); OR Human Read-Aloud for Mathematics or Science	●	⊙	○
EL4.1 and EL4.2	Human scribe or speech-to-text for Mathematics or Science responses	●	⊙	○
EL5	Test administrator reads aloud/repeats/clarifies general administration <u>directions</u> in English	●	⊙	○
EL6	Test administrator reads aloud/repeats/clarifies general administration <u>directions</u> in student's native language	●	⊙	○
EL7	Spanish/English edition of Mathematics, Biology, and Introductory Physics	●	⊙	○
EL8	Word prediction on the Mathematics and Science tests	●	⊙	○

Part IV: Lists of MCAS Accessibility Features and Accommodations

The tables below present lists of all MCAS accessibility features and accommodations, as well as the corresponding column in the Student Registration file, if applicable.

Table 8. List of Universal Accessibility Features and Designated Accessibility Features

Feature Number	Accessibility Feature	Student Registration Column
UF1	Highlighter tool	N/A
UF2	Color contrast	N/A
UF3	Zoom in/out tool	N/A
UF4	Enlarged cursor/Mouse pointer tool	Column Q
UF5	Line reader tool	N/A
UF6	Hiding options	N/A
UF7	Answer eliminator	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

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Table 9. List of Test Presentation Accommodations and Response 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 AL
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
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

Appendix C—Accessibility and Accommodations

Table 10. 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 Reader 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 11. 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 test, the Biology test, or the Introductory Physics test	Column AE
EL8	Word prediction <i>Mathematics and Science tests only</i>	Column AD

Appendix D

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Procedures Related to Student Information and Guidance on Reporting

Appendix D—Procedures Related to Student Information and Guidance on Reporting

Part I: The MCAS Portal

A Student Registration Initial Upload

Student Registration is used to register students for testing and provides information on selected accessibility features and accommodations that a student will use during testing. It determines the test form students will take for computer-based testing (e.g., Human Read-Aloud) and provides the basis for the initial shipment of manuals and other paper-based materials to schools. See Part III of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration* posted at mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal.

B Student Registration Updates (Before, During, and After Test Administration)

The MCAS Portal should be updated as follows:

- **before or during test administration**, for the following situations:
 - › to add students not included in the Student Registration file (e.g., students who recently transferred into the school)
 - › to unenroll students no longer enrolled
 - › to remove students from classes if the students are not going to participate in testing
 - › to edit accommodations (e.g., to assign a student a different form-based accommodation such as screen reader)
 - › to edit demographic information (e.g., last name spelled wrong)
- **after test administration**, for the following situations:
 - › to edit accommodations
 - › to edit demographic information (e.g., last name spelled wrong)

To update student data in the MCAS Portal, follow the steps below (recommended for a small number of updates) or export the Student Registration file, update the file, and then re-import it (recommended for larger updates). Any changes to student demographic information (name, date of birth, etc.) must also be made in SIMS. If the information is not updated in SIMS, then results will not be linked to the student.

1. Click **Administration**.
2. Click **Students**.
3. Locate the student whose data needs to be updated and click **Edit**.
4. Make the appropriate updates and click **Save**.

C Enrollment Transfer Requests

Schools will use the enrollment transfer feature in the MCAS Portal for students who transfer into or out of their school after the initial Student Registration. This feature allows a student's MCAS Portal record, including all accommodation information, to transfer to the new school.

School test coordinators and district test coordinators have the permissions in the MCAS Portal to manage enrollment transfers. More information about enrollment transfer permissions can be found in Part II of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: MCAS Portal User Management*.

Step-by-step instructions for completing enrollment transfer requests can be found in Part IV of the *Guide to the MCAS Portal: Enrollment Transfers*, available on the MCAS Resource Center: mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal.

Appendix D—Procedures Related to Student Information and Guidance on Reporting

D Instructions for Updating Student Information for CBT

Situation	Instructions
A student was provided testing accommodations that were not initially included in the Student Registration file.	Update the student's record in the MCAS Portal so it accurately reflects the accommodations that the student used (Administration>Students>Locate Student>Edit). Because a student's IEP or 504 status is reported in SIMS, remember to report students with disabilities to your district SIMS contact, including students for whom a 504 plan was developed because of a temporary disability such as a broken arm.
A student refused accommodations during testing or did not use an accommodation.	Update the student's record in the MCAS Portal so it accurately reflects the accommodations that the student used (Administration>Students>Locate Student>Edit). Screen reader and assistive technology cannot be updated in the MCAS Portal after the student has started a test. Changes to these accommodations will need to be reported to DESE.
A student was absent from all test sessions in the subject area test or refused testing.	If the student did not begin testing, remove the student from any assigned classes.
A student was added to or removed from your school's enrollment after the Student Registration was submitted.	For a student added to your enrollment who will be participating in testing, add the student to the MCAS Portal following instructions in section B on the previous page. For more information on enrollment transfer, please see Part IV of the <i>Guide to the MCAS Portal: Enrollment Transfers</i> .
A student's test needs to be marked "void" (i.e., it will not be scored and no student results will be reported).	Only students who started testing should be marked as Void (e.g., incorrect accommodations were given). - Go to Test Scheduling and then locate the test and class. - Click View Details/Student Logins and locate the student. - Select the checkbox next to their name. - Select "Add Report Code." - Add the "Void (wrong accommodation)" or "Void (other)" test report code and click Save. - If added correctly, you will see the following abbreviations in the Test Report Code column: > VWA: Void (wrong accommodation) > VO: Void (other)
A student had a medically documented absence for one or both sessions of a test and did not participate in make-up testing.	- If the student already started testing, add the "Medical absence" test report code to the student's scheduled test. Administration > Test Scheduling > View Details/Student Logins > select the checkbox next to the student's name > Add Report Code > Medical absence > Save. - If added correctly, you will see the abbreviation "MED" in the Test Report Code column.

Appendix D—Procedures Related to Student Information and Guidance on Reporting

Part II: Student Information Management System (SIMS)

A Data Elements Collected in SIMS

DESE uses data submitted by districts in SIMS as the source for student information when reporting results and for assessment and accountability purposes. **Therefore, it is critical that principals ensure the accuracy of student information provided in SIMS submissions.**

As required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), student results are disaggregated for the following student groups:

- EL and formerly EL status
- low income
- students with disabilities
- race/ethnicity

As required by other federal and state requirements, results are also disaggregated for the following subgroups:

- “high needs” (an unduplicated count of students belonging to any of the following three subgroups: EL and formerly EL, students with disabilities, low income)
- Title I status
- ever EL (students who have ever been enrolled as an EL in Massachusetts)
- gender

B Uses of SIMS Data

The October SIMS submission is used to establish which students have been enrolled in the same school since October 1, 2025, for MCAS reporting purposes.

C Questions about SIMS Data

Questions about your SIMS data should be directed to the district’s SIMS contact, who is responsible for submitting the data to DESE. See page ii for instructions to find your district’s contact.

Appendix D—Procedures Related to Student Information and Guidance on Reporting

Part III: Student Participation and Reporting Guidance

The table below shows the ways that information about student participation will be used for MCAS reporting. Students are considered participants if they answer at least one question in each session.

Student Group/Situation	How Information Is Used for <u>MCAS</u> Reporting
Students with Disabilities	DESE will report whether a student with a disability was tested with accommodations based on the information in the Student Registration file, with the exception of three paper-based accommodations: a student will be reported as having had the large-print, Braille, or typed-response accommodation if the accommodation is indicated in the Student Registration file or if the circle for the accommodation is filled in on the test & answer booklet back cover.
Students Who Transfer During the Test Administration	If a student transfers from one school to another between test sessions, and the results from the first and second test sessions can be linked, the student's results will be reported to the receiving district and school. If the student's first and second test sessions cannot be linked to provide complete results, each school and district will receive results for the session it administered.
Void	The student will be reported with a test status of NTO or NTA, depending on enrollment status in SIMS.

Appendix E

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Selected Forms

Selected Forms

This appendix contains a small selection of MCAS forms:

- Nondisclosure Acknowledgment
- Confirmation of Training Participation and Receipt of *Test Administrator's Manuals*
- Internal Tracking Form for Computer-Based Testing
- Internal Tracking Form for Paper-Based Testing

All forms, as well as sample materials, can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/retest/forms.



MCAS Nondisclosure Acknowledgment

Background

In order to ensure the security and validity of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires that all individuals authorized by their principals to administer MCAS tests to students with disabilities or EL students who require any of the test administration accommodations listed below review and understand the terms of this nondisclosure acknowledgment.

This form must be signed by test administrators who are administering MCAS tests to students with disabilities or EL students using accommodations A2, A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, A5, A6.1, A8, A10.1, A10.2, A11, A12, A13, A14, and A15; special access accommodations SAA1.2, SAA2, SAA3.1, SAA3.2, and SAA6; and English learner accommodations EL3.2, EL4.1, and EL4.2. These accommodations require the test administrator to view secure material in the form of either test content or student responses. This form should be distributed to, and signed by, test administrators before they view secure test material. Since no other individuals in schools are authorized to view secure MCAS test content, signing this form is not required for any other staff.

Acknowledgment

- With the exception of test questions publicly released by DESE, all MCAS test questions are secure and confidential. The materials are specifically excluded from the Massachusetts Public Records Law. (G. L. c. 4, § 7(26) (I)) Therefore, I agree not to reproduce, discuss, or in any way release or distribute test questions and associated materials.
- If I have a concern with a test question (e.g., I think there is a flaw in a question or am uncomfortable with the content of a question for a non-academic reason), I will follow instructions in the TAM to inform my principal, who will contact the Department for consultation.
- I further agree to refrain from using any knowledge of MCAS test questions to prepare students for testing or provide them with any information that might give them an advantage in answering questions.

By signing below as a test administrator for students with disabilities or EL students who require one of the accommodations listed above, I acknowledge and accept that I am bound by the terms of this acknowledgment prohibiting the disclosure of information regarding secure test content.

Name: _____

Test To Be Administered: _____

District and School: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return the form to your principal, who will keep this signed form in the school files for three years. Do not submit this form to DESE or the testing contractor.

last updated August 2025

Sample Blank Internal Form

MCAS Administration

Confirmation of Training Participation
and Receipt of Test Administrator’s Manuals (TAMs)
and Test Security Requirements

Test administrators must sign below to indicate they have attended their school’s MCAS training session and have received a copy of the MCAS TAM for the test they will be administering.

Other school personnel who have access to secure materials must sign below to indicate they have attended their school’s MCAS training session and have received a copy of the MCAS test security requirements (available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin).

Principals should retain this document in their school files for three years.

Date of Training	Time	Printed Name of Individual	Individual’s Role (e.g., Test Administrator, Test Coordinator, Hallway Monitor)	Signature of Individual <i>By signing below, I acknowledge that</i> 1. I am documenting my attendance at my school’s MCAS training session in proper test administration protocols and procedures. 2. I am receiving the MCAS TAM for the test I will administer or the MCAS test security requirements. I will read and understand the protocols in it, and I will abide by the terms specified within.

Sample Blank Form for Computer-Based Testing

MCAS Secure Materials Internal Tracking Form Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

Schools must account for MCAS test materials at all times.
Use this form to track the distribution and return of MCAS materials.

Test Administrator's Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Grade: _____ Subject/Sessions: _____

Materials Moved from Locked Storage Area to Room # _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

	# of Student Logins	# of Test Administrator Logins*	Materials for Accommodations**
Test Coordinator's Count			☐ distributed
Test Administrator's Count			☐ received

Test Coordinator's Signature: _____

Test Administrator's Signature: _____

Materials Moved from Room # _____ to Locked Storage Area

Date: _____ Time: _____

	# of Student Logins	# of Test Administrator Logins*	Materials for Accommodations**	Used Scratch Paper (no count needed)
Test Coordinator's Count			☐ received	☐ received
Test Administrator's Count			☐ returned	☐ returned

Test Coordinator's Signature: _____

Test Administrator's Signature: _____

☐ Check this box to confirm that testing tickets, used scratch paper, and accommodation materials (such as graphic organizers or pre-approved reference sheets) have been securely destroyed.

* Test administrator logins are used for students in Human Read-Aloud and Human Signer classes.

** Includes pre-approved reference sheets, graphic organizers, checklists

Retain this document in your school files for three years.



Sample Blank Form for Paper-Based Testing

MCAS PBT Administration Test Materials Internal Tracking Form

Schools must account for MCAS test materials at all times.
Use this form to track the distribution and return of MCAS materials.

Test Administrator's Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Grade: _____ Subject/Sessions: _____

Materials Moved from Locked Storage Area to Room # _____

Date: _____	Time: _____		# of Standard Test & Answer Booklets	# and Type of Special Editions of Test Materials*	Materials for Accommodations**
Test Coordinator's Count					☐ distributed
Test Administrator's Count					☐ received

Test Coordinator's Signature: _____ Test Administrator's Signature: _____

Materials Moved from Room # _____ to Locked Storage Area

Date: _____	Time: _____		# of Standard Test & Answer Booklets	# and Type of Special Editions of Test Materials*	Materials for Accommodations**	Used Scratch Paper (no count needed)
Test Coordinator's Count					☐ received	☐ received
Test Administrator's Count					☐ returned	☐ returned

Test Coordinator's Signature: _____ Test Administrator's Signature: _____

Date: _____

☐ Check this box to confirm that used scratch paper has been securely destroyed.

* Includes large-print, Braille

** Includes pre-approved reference sheets, graphic organizers, checklists

Retain this document in your school files for three years.

