**DESE logo
Participation Guidelines for the   
Spring 2024 Grade 10 ELA and Mathematics Tests**

Refer to the guidance below for information on student participation in the spring 2024 MCAS grade 10 tests. (Refer to the [separate guidance](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/highschool.html) on participation in high school Science.)

Note that students in grade 11 who are eligible to retake ELA are not permitted to take both the March retest in ELA and the spring grade 10 ELA test; schools should determine in advance in which administration a student will participate.

Questions about these participation guidelines should be directed to [mcas@doe.mass.edu](mailto:mcas@doe.mass.edu), and schools should consult with DESE regarding any special circumstances.

| **Eligibility** | **Spring 2024 Grade 10 Participation Guidelines** |
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| **Required to participate** | * All first-time grade 10 students * Students in grade 11 or 12[[1]](#footnote-2) who were reported as grade 9 students the previous school year in SIMS and were not counted[[2]](#footnote-3) in a school’s participation results |
| **Eligible to participate for** [**CD purposes**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html) | * Repeating grade 10 students[[3]](#footnote-4) who have not yet earned a scaled score of at least 455 on the ELA test or at least 469 on the Mathematics test  (Note: These are the minimum MCAS test scores to earn a Competency Determination (CD) for the class of 2025, along with an EPP. Refer to the [Graduation Requirements](https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html) for additional guidance on the CD.) * Students in grade 11 or 12[[4]](#footnote-5) who were unable to participate in the March retests and haven’t earned their CD in ELA or Mathematics (Students in grade 12 are permitted to take the March retest and grade 10 test in Mathematics, but are not permitted to take both the March retest and the spring grade 10 test in ELA.) |
| **Eligible to participate to qualify for the** [**Adams Scholarship**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html) | * Repeating grade 10 students3 and students in grade 11 who are testing for the first time, regardless of whether the students were MED or ABS in grade 10, or are new to a MA public school |
| **Eligible to participate to qualify for the** [**Koplik Award**](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) | * Repeating grade 10 students3 and students in grade 11 who are attempting to improve their scores for the Koplik Award |
| **Eligible to participate in ELA to qualify for the** [**Seal of Biliteracy**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/biliteracy/) | * Students who are repeating grade 10, or are in grade 11 or 121,[[5]](#footnote-6) |
| **Not eligible to participate** | * Grade 9 students[[6]](#footnote-7) * Adults who exited high school and are attempting to meet the MCAS ELA or Mathematics testing portion of the CD requirement; schools should email [mcas@doe.mass.edu](mailto:mcas@doe.mass.edu) for permission (Adults are recommended to take the retests instead.) |

1. Results for grade 12 students will be reported according to the regular grade 10 reporting schedule. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. For the purpose of these guidelines, a student is defined as having counted in a school’s participation results if they were reported on an MCAS Student Roster (All Subjects) (report “PE617” in Edwin Analytics) for the previous spring’s grade 10 ELA or Mathematics test with any of the following Test Status Codes: T (Tested), NTA (Not Tested Absent), NTL (Not Tested First-Year EL), NTM (Not Tested Medically Documented Absent), or the achievement level INV (test results were invalidated). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Repeating grade 10 students who participate will not be included in MCAS reporting of participation and performance results along with all grade 10 students. Participation in retests is usually a better option for these students and their schools. Students should participate in the ELA retest or the spring grade 10 test, but **may not** take both ELA tests. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Results for grade 12 students will be reported according to the regular grade 10 reporting schedule. Principals may want to file MCAS performance appeals for eligible grade 12 students in addition to, or instead of, having them participate in grade 10 MCAS tests (participation in retests is generally a better option for these students and their schools). Information about the performance appeals process is posted at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Although results from the grade 10 ELA test will not be available until early August, the Seal of Biliteracy can be awarded retroactively, so grade 12 students may take the test for this purpose. However, the Department recommends that grade 12 students take the March ELA retest instead. Students should not take both the March ELA retest and the spring grade 10 ELA test. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. For repeating grade 9 students to be eligible to participate, their status must be changed from grade 9 to grade 10 by the June SIMS submission. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)