**February 2025 High School Science
Participation Guidelines**

Refer to the information below on student participation in the February 2025 MCAS Biology and Introductory Physics tests. Note that a student may not test in more than one subject in the February administration. Questions about these participation guidelines should be directed to mcas@mass.gov.

| **Eligibility** | **Participation Guidelines** |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible to participate** | * Students in grade 9 or 10 who have completed or are expected to complete a high school course in biology or introductory physics and have **not** **yet** taken a high school science test (Results will be used for accountability purposes and to determine [Adams Scholarship](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html) and the [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) eligibility.)\*
* Students repeating grade 10 and students in grade 11 who have **not** **yet** taken a high school science test and are attempting to qualify for the [Adams Scholarship](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html) and/or the [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/)
* Students repeating grade 10 and students in grade 11 who **have previously taken** a high school science test and are attempting to raise their score to qualify for the [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/)
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| **Not eligible to participate** | * Grade 9 students who have not yet completed a biology or introductory physics course
* Grade 12 students (except as noted below)
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\*A small number of students in grade 11 or 12 who skipped grade 10 are also eligible to participate for accountability purposes. Results for these grade 11 students may be used to determine [Adams Scholarship](https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams/default.html) and [Koplik Award](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) eligibility; grade 12 results cannot be used to determine scholarship eligibility.

**Note:**Students may also participate for local uses or requirements, if applicable.

**Additional Student Participation Guidelines for the 2025 MCAS High School Science Tests**

Guidance on Participation in Grade 9 or 10

Because eligibility for the Adams Scholarship is based on students’ first-time MCAS test scores, DESE recommends that schools notify all students and their parents/guardians about this criterion, regardless of whether students participate in grade 9 or 10.

Accountability Determinations for Science

School and district accountability determinations are made when students complete grade 10, using the tests they took in grade 9 or 10. Note that determinations also include students in grade 11 or 12 who were in grade 9 the previous school year.