



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students in the Class of 2021 (high school juniors):

Enclosed are your child's results from the spring 2019 10th grade MCAS tests. The front page of the report provides a chart that shows your child's results from tests in English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering. The results are important, because passing the high school MCAS tests is a graduation requirement.

In **English language arts and mathematics**, there are three possible results for your child's test. Your child may have:

- Passed and met the MCAS graduation requirement in one or both subjects by earning a score of 472 or higher in ELA and 486 or higher in Mathematics.
- Passed (earned a score between 455 and 471 in ELA or between 469 and 485 in mathematics) but needs to complete an Educational Proficiency Plan (www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/epp/) in that subject area in order to graduate. Each EPP will include a review of your child's strengths and weaknesses, the courses he or she must take and complete in grades 11 and 12, and a description of the assessments the school will administer to determine whether your child is moving toward proficiency.
- Not passed, in which case your child can retake the test (several times, if necessary) in order to meet the MCAS graduation requirement. The first retest opportunity for ELA and Mathematics is scheduled for November 6–8 and November 13–14, 2019, respectively.

Please note that even though the ELA and Mathematics tests were updated in 2019, the minimum passing standard is currently set at the equivalent of last year's minimum passing standard. In other words, students who were sophomores in spring 2019 must meet the same MCAS graduation requirements as the classes who came before them.

In **science and technology/engineering (STE)**, all students in the class of 2021 should have taken an MCAS end-of-course high school STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering) test in grade 9 or 10. The report indicates whether your child has passed by earning a score of 220 (*Needs Improvement*) or higher on one of the four STE tests. Students who have not yet passed an STE test may next participate in a Biology test in February 2020. Tests in all four STE content areas will be offered in June 2020.

For students who have not passed a test in either English language arts, mathematics or STE, the MCAS Performance Appeals Process provides another way for students to demonstrate that they possess the knowledge and skills required to meet or exceed the state's CD standard. Additional information, including eligibility requirements, is available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals, or you can contact the high school principal or guidance office.

Your child's MCAS scores may also earn them a tuition credit to a Massachusetts public college or university. Students who qualify for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/adams.html) will be notified automatically during their senior year. Students who are eligible for the Stanley C. Koplík Certificate of Mastery (www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/mastery/) must apply during their senior year.

For students who have not met the MCAS requirements for graduation, there are additional opportunities available at no cost to help them prepare for the future, including high school programs, community college programs, and work and learning programs. More information about these pathways and other options can be found at www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/ccr/hqccp.

If you have questions about your child's results, please contact your child's guidance counselor. If they are not able to answer your question, please contact us at mcas@doe.mass.edu or 781-338-3625.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner