



Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Dear Members of the Class of 2023 (Current Ninth Graders) and Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2023:

This year's ninth graders have entered high school at a time when the state is transitioning to a new statewide assessment called the next-generation MCAS in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science and technology/engineering (STE). I hope this letter will help clarify the graduation requirement for your class.

ELA and Mathematics

In order to graduate from high school, students in previous classes were required to obtain a score of 240 on the previous (legacy) grade 10 tests, or obtain a score of between 220 and 238 and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan (which outlines how the student will become proficient in that particular subject). On the new, next-generation grade 10 tests, students must earn a score *corresponding* to 240 (or 220-238 plus the fulfillment of an Educational Proficiency Plan). In other words, **the passing standard remains the same for your class** during this transition.

Science and Technology/Engineering (STE)

Depending on the high school course of study students are taking—biology, introductory physics, chemistry, or technology/engineering—students take an MCAS test in the corresponding subject in either grade 9 or grade 10.

Students who take a biology or introductory physics test in June 2020 will take new, next-generation tests in those subjects. The tests will be similar in design to the tests that students took as eighth graders in spring 2019 if they were in a Massachusetts public school. These students will need to reach the score *corresponding* to 220 on the legacy tests to qualify for a high school diploma. Again, **the passing standard remains the same as in previous years** as the state introduces the new tests in these subjects.

Students will continue to have retest opportunities on all high school MCAS tests and will continue to have the opportunity to qualify for scholarship programs through the high school MCAS tests.

If you have questions about graduation requirements, please contact your school guidance counselor or principal or visit www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html for more information.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education