

# MCAS-Alt

Same Standards • High Expectations for ALL Students



December 2013 | January 2014

Volume 11, Issue 4

[www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt)



This newsletter is published by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and will provide Massachusetts educators with information, advice, and support to teach the Massachusetts learning standards to students with significant disabilities, and to conduct the MCAS Alternate Assessment.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

--Nelson Mandela

## In This Issue

- January Portfolio Review Sessions
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Resource Guides
- Reminders
- Save the Dates
- Administrator's Corner

## January Portfolio Review Sessions

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Portfolios-in-Progress review session or Introduction to MCAS-Alt session in one of the regional locations listed below. Each session begins at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 12:30 p.m. Please review the informational flyer that has been faxed to each school and district office, which is available online at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html).

Dates and locations for these sessions are as follows:

- January 7 - Springfield Sheraton
- January 8 - Danvers DoubleTree
- January 9 - Taunton Holiday Inn
- January 10 - Marlborough Best Western

Register at [www.mcasservicecenter.com](http://www.mcasservicecenter.com) by Tuesday, January 3, 2014. Choose "MCAS Alternate Assessment," then "Registration for Training." If you have questions, please contact the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103.

Portfolios-in-Progress sessions will be cancelled if the district in which the training is held also cancels school. An email announcing this will be sent to the email address provided in your registration information.

## FAQs about the Resource Guides

- Q. Does it matter which grade-level standard I chose for the Strand Cover Sheet? What if the entry point is very different from the standard at the student's grade level?
- A. You should select the grade-level standard that matches the entry point most closely. An exact match is not required.
- Q. What if the entry point in Mathematics is from a lower grade and does not have the same cluster heading as the cluster heading at the student's grade level?
- A. It is acceptable to choose an entry point from a different cluster at a lower grade level, provided you remain within the same Math domain.
- Q. I want to use an entry point from the 2013 Mathematics and/or ELA Resource Guide, but it appears to include **two** related skills. Do I assess **all** the skills listed in the entry point? Can I modify the entry point to include only one of the skills?
- A. In cases where an entry point in the 2013 ELA or Mathematics Resource Guide includes more than one skill, teachers may choose either to:
- Select one of the skills listed in the entry point and create a measurable outcome to assess the single skill; OR
  - Select the entire entry point for the measurable outcome, and assess all the skills in the entry point on each date on which the data and evidence are collected.
- Q. When citing text for activities in the Reading Strand, how much information is required?
- A. You may provide either the title of the text, or a photocopy of the actual text, if it is brief or was developed by the teacher.

## Reminders

- If a student taking the MCAS-Alt transfers into your school during the school year, you should try to

obtain any evidence or partially-completed portfolio from the student's sending school or district

- *The 2013 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt): State Summary of Participation and Performance* will soon be available at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/results.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/results.html)

## Save the Dates

The final Portfolios-in-Progress review sessions will be held in February and March on the dates listed below. You will be notified when registration becomes available.

- Wednesday, February 26 - Springfield Sheraton
- Thursday, February 27 - Marlborough Best Western
- Monday, March 10 - Taunton Holiday Inn
- Tuesday, March 11 - Danvers DoubleTree

## Administrator's Corner

Dates to remember:

- MCAS Enrollment Survey to order MCAS and MCAS-Alt materials: January 6-17
- Receive portfolio submission materials and information: week of February 24
- Portfolios are due on April 4th

Was this email forwarded to you?

Get on our mailing list. [Click here](#) to sign up for the MCAS-Alt News.

We'd love to hear from you.

Please [let us know](#) if there is a topic you'd like us to address in a future MCAS-Alt newsletter.

Published during the school year by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
[www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt)