

# MCAS-Alt

Same Standards • High Expectations for ALL Students

SPECIAL EDITION

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



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Due to the number of storm related school closures this month, the MCAS-Alt submission deadline will be extended until 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 2.

We request that schools make every effort to complete and ship their portfolios by March 29, the original due date, if possible.

Administrators should schedule a UPS pick-up for their anticipated pick-up date, no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30.

Thank you for your attention to this important information. Please share this information with your administrator.

## General Reminders

- MCAS-Alt portfolios must be shipped from your school together with a completed Student Information Booklet (SIB) for each student. Place each portfolio and SIB in its own unsealed white envelope.
- The lead teacher for each portfolio must enter their email address on the second page of the SIB in order to receive PDPs. A PDP certificate will be sent to the school that submitted the portfolio in late June.
- All students designated for alternate assessment who are enrolled in your school on the MCAS-Alt submission date are required to participate in the assessment.
- If a student moves out of your school before the portfolio submission deadline, please send all data and evidence for the student's portfolio to the receiving school. Do not send the three-ring binder, SIB, or other MCAS-Alt submission materials—these should be requested by the new school. Return any unused items to Measured Progress according to the directions sent with the original shipment.
- Portfolio Feedback Forms (PFFs) will be available to administrators in the Dropbox through the Gateway Security Portal in mid-June. Remember to keep a photocopy of the student's

portfolio in the event a score appeal is warranted. Administrators will receive information regarding the posting of PFFs and submission of score appeals.

## Measurable Outcomes

- Review your students' measurable outcomes carefully. For example, if the measurable outcome says "describe the characteristics...," then all activities must document how the student described the characteristics; if it says "identify the main idea...," then each activity must identify the main idea.
- Approval must have been obtained from the Department for measurable outcomes that are not based on an entry point found in the Resource Guide.
- If an entry point includes two related skills (e.g., addition **and** subtraction), then *one or both* skills may be selected for the measurable outcome. If both skills are selected for the measurable outcome, then both skills must be assessed during activities on each date.

## ELA-Reading

- Texts that were used for the ELA-Reading strand must be either literary or informational. Review supplemental materials regarding [Informational and Literary text](#) and [Acceptable Online Informational Texts](#) to ensure that texts are consistent in each strand, and to see which texts do not require submission of a photocopy of the text.
- Brief descriptions on the data chart and on the evidence itself (or work sample description) must include either the title of the published text used for the activity, or a brief excerpt of the actual text, if it is *teacher-created* or includes selections from a *digital source* (e.g., *Reading A-Z*).

## ELA-Writing

- Three final writing samples, one baseline writing sample, and three pre-scored rubrics are all required for the ELA-Writing strand.
- Final writing samples, including those scribed verbatim by the teacher, should reflect the work of the student, *without* edits by the teacher.
- The percent of independence on a writing sample can be measured either by the word or by the sentence. For example, if the student expressed 15 words and needed prompting on 3 of the words, the percent of independence would be 12 out of 15, or 80%.
- Writing samples related to bathroom activities will not be counted or scored as one of the three final writing samples.

## Data Charts

- According to the "New and Notable" section of the [2018 Educator's Manual for MCAS-Alt](#), a portfolio strand may no longer include one field data chart, one bar or line graph summarizing the field data, and one work sample. Field data charts may still be submitted, but must be accompanied by two additional pieces of evidence (e.g., work sample, photo, or video)
- Brief Descriptions must explain how the student addressed the skill(s) listed in the measurable outcome.

For example:

*Measurable Outcome:* Student will label the human body parts of the respiratory system with 80% accuracy and 100% independence.

*Brief Description:* Student labeled 3 parts of the respiratory system (WHAT) on an interactive whiteboard (HOW).

Remember to review resources available through the

[Department's MCAS-Alt web page](#)

or

[MCAS-Alt materials site.](#)

We'd love to hear from you.

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