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MCAS-Alt

Same Standards • High Expectations for ALL Students

June 2018

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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.

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."

--Brad Henry

Congratulations to teachers!

We applaud your hard work in completing your students' portfolios for the 2017–2018 school year. Approximately 8,000 portfolios were submitted by the April 2 deadline.

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Resource Guides

Updated versions of the Resource Guides will soon be available for the 2018–2019 school year,

including an updated Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) guide based on the *2016 Science and Technology/Engineering Framework*. A special edition newsletter later this summer will outline new requirements and format of the STE assessments for grades 5 and 8.

Reporting Preliminary MCAS-Alt Results

- **2018 MCAS-Alt preliminary results** were reported electronically in your school's Dropbox on the Department's [Gateway Portal](#) on June 11. Portfolio Feedback Forms (PFFs) for your students are available in PDF format. See instructions in the *Administrator's Corner* section of this newsletter on how principals and other authorized staff can view, download, and print the results.
- Once the preliminary results are available, teachers should review their students' PFFs and the comments of scorers. The comments are intended to improve the quality of instruction and the creation of future MCAS-Alt portfolios.

MCAS-Alt Score Appeals

The deadline for submitting MCAS-Alt score appeals is **Friday, June 22**, at 5:00 p.m. To file a score appeal, you must have kept a photocopy of the portfolio at the school to compare with the reported results on the Portfolio Feedback Form, and the Principal or Superintendent must be prepared to sign off. Please refer to the online score appeal [application](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) for additional information regarding MCAS-Alt score appeals.

Mark your Calendars

Fall MCAS-Alt Educator Training Sessions (8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.)

Date	Location
Monday, October 1	Danvers, DoubleTree
Tuesday, October 2	Taunton, Holiday Inn
Wednesday, October 10	Marlborough, Best Western
Thursday, October 11	Holyoke, Log Cabin
Monday, October 15	Danvers, Double Tree
Tuesday, October 16	Taunton, Holiday Inn
Monday, October 22	Marlborough, Best Western
Tuesday, October 23	Holyoke, Log Cabin

Administrator's Corner

MCAS-Alt preliminary results are now available on the Department's Gateway Portal

Instructions for Viewing Electronic MCAS-Alt Preliminary Results:

- In order to view your school's MCAS-Alt results and the PDF versions of the Portfolio Feedback Forms (PFFs), you must log in to the [Gateway Portal](#); click on **DropBox Central**; then look under the school name.
- If you need assistance logging in, please see your district or organization [Directory Administrator](#).
- Please share printed copies of the PFFs as soon as possible with teachers who submitted student portfolios so they can review the scores and comments and file a score appeal, if warranted.
- The [score appeal form](#) is available as results were posted on **June 11**. Please also review the [frequently asked questions](#) document.
- To submit a score appeal, you will be asked to document why the score on the PFF does not reflect the evidence in the portfolio itself. [The Educator's Manual for MCAS-Alt](#) and [Resource Guides](#) are available to assist in completing the documentation required on the score appeal form.
- Note: the Department will not accept:
 - submission of additional portfolio evidence,
 - requests to alter information previously submitted, or
 - claims that a clerical error was made by the educator in the original portfolio

If you have any questions, please contact Debra Hand at dhand@doe.mass.edu or at 781-338-3625.

Fall Administrator's Overview Training for MCAS and MCAS-Alt for Student's with Disabilities (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Date	Location
Monday, October 15	Danvers, Double Tree
Tuesday, October 16	Taunton, Holiday Inn
Monday, October 22	Marlborough, Best Western
Tuesday, October 23	Holyoke, Log Cabin

**Thank you for your attention to this information
and have a wonderful summer!**

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.

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