



2014 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt): State Summary of Participation and Achievement

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Purpose of this Document

This report provides a summary of the statewide participation rates and achievement results of students with significant disabilities who participated in the 2014 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt). The MCAS-Alt evaluates and reports on the annual achievement of those students in meeting state standards and provides parents and teachers with vital information to assist in monitoring students' progress. About 8,900 students in grades 3–10 participated in the 2014 MCAS-Alt.

Students with significant disabilities are required by law to participate in statewide academic assessments and to be counted in overall achievement results. The Commonwealth is required to report aggregate results publicly to hold schools, districts, and the state accountable for the achievement of all students. Additionally, under the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), federal law requires that students with significant disabilities be included when determining whether all students participated in MCAS assessments, and whether each Massachusetts school and district is making progress toward reducing proficiency gaps.

In 2014, approximately 69 percent of students earned a score at the *Progressing* achievement level on their MCAS-Alt portfolios. The percentage of students at this level indicates that most students with significant disabilities are being provided with challenging educational opportunities to address the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and are achieving their academic goals with a high degree of accuracy and independence.

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Executive Summary

The participation and achievement of students with disabilities in the 2014 MCAS-Alt administration are summarized below. Please see Appendix D for Achievement Levels and Descriptors.

- The number of students in grades 3–10 who participated in alternate assessments in at least one content area was 8,896, or 1.6 percent of the total tested population. The percentage of students with disabilities who participated in MCAS-Alt was 8.9 percent, a decrease of 0.4 percentage points over 2013, when 9.3 percent of students with disabilities did so.
- In English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, averaged across all grades and both subjects, 71 percentage points of students performed at the *Progressing* level, a notable decrease of 10 percentage points from 2013, when approximately 81 percent did so. The highest achievement in ELA was at grade 3, where 75 percent of students performed at the *Progressing* level; in Mathematics, the highest achievement was at grade 4, where 84 percent of students performed at the *Progressing* level, a slight decrease from 2013. By contrast, the lowest achievement in ELA was at grade 10, where 55 percent of students performed at the *Progressing* level, a decrease of 16 percentage points from 2013; in Mathematics, the lowest achievement was also at grade 10, where 64 percent of students performed at the *Progressing* level, a decrease of eight percentage points from 2013.
- In Science and Technology/Engineering (STE), averaged across grades 5 and 8, 68 percent of students performed at the *Progressing* level, a decrease of seven percentage points from 2013. Among high school students participating in the MCAS-Alt in one of the four STE subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering), 57 percent performed at the *Progressing* level, a decrease of 10 percentage points from 2013.
- Student achievement at the *Emerging* level, one level below *Progressing*, averaged across all grades in ELA and Mathematics, increased between 2013 and 2014, with 12 percent of students in ELA and seven percent of students in Mathematics scoring at this level. In STE, averaged across grades 5 and 8, 15 percent of students performed at the *Emerging* level, a slight increase of one percentage point from 2013. As in 2013, the highest percentage of students performing at the *Emerging* level was seen at high school in all subjects (ELA, Mathematics, and STE), compared to other grades. In ELA, approximately 23 percent of students performed at the *Emerging* level, a six percentage point increase from 2013, while in Mathematics approximately 17 percent of students performed at the *Emerging* level, which remained unchanged between 2013 and 2014. In the four high school STE subjects, 18 percent of students performed at this level, an increase of four percentage points from 2013.
- Student achievement at the *Awareness* level, one level below *Emerging*, across all grades in ELA, Mathematics, and STE is 1.8, 2.1, and 1.6 percent respectively, a considerable increase from 2013.
- Across all grades and content areas, students whose portfolios were determined to be *Incomplete* increased by 6.7 percentage points from 2013. The increase correlates with the

implementation of the 2011 Massachusetts curriculum frameworks standards (incorporating the common core state standards) in both English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics. This highlights the need for educators conducting the MCAS-Alt to remain current regarding portfolio requirements, to collaborate with general educators in content areas, and to attend a minimum of one statewide training session each year.

Table 1. 2014 MCAS-Alt Statewide Results by Subject

Subject / Grades	MCAS-Alt Achievement Level										Total MCAS-Alt Portfolios
	Awareness		Emerging		Progressing		Needs Improvement (or Higher)		Incomplete		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	Number
ELA (All Grades)	148	1.8	1,033	12.3	5,506	65.6	6	0.1	1,699	20.2	8,392
Mathematics (All Grades)	181	2.1	629	7.3	6,559	76.5	7	0.1	1,203	14.0	8,579
Science and Technology/ Engineering (STE) (Grades 5 and 8)	43	1.9	356	15.4	1,582	68.5	1	0.1	329	14.2	2,311
High School STE (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Tech/Eng)	10	1.0	175	17.6	567	56.9	8	0.8	236	23.7	996

I. Introduction

This report describes the statewide participation rates and achievement results from the spring 2014 administration of the MCAS-Alt in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering. The MCAS-Alt has been administered annually since spring 2001 and is offered in every subject and grade for which a standard MCAS test is required.

This report also presents information on the students who participated in MCAS-Alt, including the nature of their disabilities, the participation of students in MCAS-Alt relative to students taking standard MCAS tests, and the methods used to evaluate student portfolios and report student scores and achievement levels.

State summaries of MCAS-Alt for 2001–2014 are available on the Department’s website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/results.html.

II. Background

According to state and federal laws, all students, including students with disabilities, are required to participate in statewide assessments. Student with significant disabilities who are unable to take the standard MCAS tests, even with accommodations, must take the MCAS-Alt. Decisions as to how each student with a disability will participate in MCAS are made by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and documented in the student’s IEP, or in a 504 plan developed by the school or district. Information about the participation of students with disabilities in MCAS is available on the Department’s website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/participation/.

For each student scheduled to participate in the MCAS-Alt, schools must submit a portfolio consisting of data charts and work samples based on the grade-level content found in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks that has been modified to reflect challenging and attainable entry points for each student. The basis for modifying academic curriculum for students taking the MCAS-Alt is described in the *Resource Guide to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Students with Disabilities*, available on the Department’s website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html.

The purposes of the MCAS-Alt are to:

- ensure that students with significant disabilities are receiving a program of instruction based on the state’s academic standards;
- determine what students with significant disabilities have learned;
- include difficult-to-assess students in statewide assessment and accountability systems;
- provide alternative pathways for some students with disabilities to earn a comparable score to a student in grades 3–8 who has taken the MCAS standard test in that subject, and in high school to earn a Competency Determination (CD) and become eligible to receive a diploma.

Participation Guidelines

A student with a *significant cognitive disability* is considered for an alternate assessment by his or her IEP team, or is documented on a 504 plan, when he or she:

- receives routine academic instruction based on learning standards in the curriculum frameworks for which the level of complexity of content and skills has been modified and is well below the expectations of a non-disabled student enrolled in the same grade;
AND
- receives intensive, individualized instruction across all settings in which a subject is taught, in order for the student to acquire, generalize, and demonstrate knowledge and skills;
AND
- is generally unable to demonstrate knowledge and skills on a standardized paper-and-pencil test in the subject being assessed, even when accommodations are provided.

In addition, students with other complex and significant (though not necessarily *cognitive*) disabilities may be considered for an alternate assessment based on grade-level achievement standards if their disabilities would present *unique and significant challenges* to fully demonstrating their knowledge and skills on a standardized paper-and-pencil test, even if accommodations were provided.

Portfolio Contents and Structure

“Evidence” is collected by the student’s teacher(s) and other school staff throughout the year in the subject being assessed, and the “evidence” is organized in a portfolio that includes the following types of products and information:

- Work samples, video clips, and/or photographs documenting the student’s performance of tasks based on the standards being assessed.
- Data charts documenting the student’s performance over a period of time during activities based on the learning standards being assessed. Data must be collected on at least 8 different dates and must begin at a level of *accuracy* and/or *independence* below 80 percent in order to show that the student was taught new skills, knowledge, and concepts.
 - *Accuracy* is considered to be the percentage of correct student responses.
 - *Independence* is considered to be the percentage of tasks, items, or activities in which the student required *no* assistance in attaining the correct answer.
- Supporting documentation, including descriptions provided by the teacher, reflection sheets allowing the student to evaluate his/her own performance, and other evidence that indicates how the student was instructed and/or how he or she demonstrated knowledge and skills in the subject being assessed.

Development of portfolios is guided by information in the *Educator's Manual for MCAS-Alt*, which is updated annually, distributed at Department-sponsored training events, and posted on the Department's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html.

Scoring MCAS-Alt Portfolios

Once student portfolios are submitted to the Department in early April, they are reviewed and scored by scorers who are supervised by Department staff. Prospective scorers receive extensive training and must qualify to become scorers. Scorers are monitored closely for accuracy and consistency throughout the scoring process. The Rubric for Scoring Portfolio Strands, shown in Appendix E, is used as the basis for scoring student portfolios.

Educators should be aware of current portfolio requirements, since portfolios that lack the minimum required evidence and information are scored *Incomplete*. Detailed information on scoring portfolios is found in the *2014 Guidelines for Scoring Student Portfolios*, which is available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/results.html.

Once preliminary scores are provided to districts in mid-June, a score appeal process enables a school to initiate a request to review the score of any portion of a portfolio, based on a perceived inaccuracy in the scoring of the portfolio. Upon submission of an appeal, the student's portfolio is reviewed by a panel of expert scorers and rescored if necessary.

III. Student Participation in 2014 MCAS-Alt

A total of 8,896 students in grades 3–10, or 1.6 percent of the total assessed population participated in the MCAS-Alt in one or more content areas, as shown in Table 2. A slightly higher relative proportion of students in grades 3–8 took the MCAS-Alt compared with students in grade 10. Slightly more students were alternately assessed in Mathematics than in English Language Arts (ELA). See Appendix B for the MCAS-Alt participation rates in each grade and subject.

Between 7.9 and 11.0 percent of all assessed students with disabilities in each grade participated in the 2014 MCAS-Alt. See Appendix C for comparative rates of participation in each MCAS assessment format (i.e., routinely tested, tested with accommodations, or alternately assessed) by subject.

Table 2. Rate of Participation in MCAS-Alt by Students with Disabilities in Grades 3–10 in at Least One Content Area

Year	Total Students Taking MCAS-Alt	Percentage of All Assessed Students Taking MCAS-Alt	Percentage of Students with Disabilities Taking MCAS-Alt
2004	5,139	1.0%	5.5%
2005	6,131	1.2%	6.4%
2006	7,006	1.3%	7.7%
2007	7,621	1.4%	8.4%
2008	8,199	1.5%	8.4%
2009	8,738	1.6%	9.0%
2010	9,286	1.7%	9.1%
2011	9,325	1.7%	8.6%
2012	9,386	1.7%	8.8%
2013	9,111	1.7%	9.3%
2014	8,896	1.6%	8.9%

Table 3 shows the number of students with disabilities who took the 2014 MCAS-Alt in each grade and subject.

Grade	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science and Technology/Engineering
3	1,221	1,220	–
4	1,273	1,248	–
5	1,321	1,351	1,209
6	1,296	1,339	–
7	1,196	1,255	–
8	1,121	1,187	1,102
9	–	–	149
10	918	926	792
Total	8,346	8,526	3,252

Table 4 shows the distribution of primary disabilities among MCAS-Alt participants. Slightly more than seventy percent of students who took MCAS-Alt had either an intellectual disability, autism, or multiple disabilities, with the remaining students accounted for in ten other disability categories.

Table 4. Nature of Primary Disability Among 2014 MCAS-Alt Participants in Grades 3-10^a

Primary Disability^b	Total Number of Students in Primary Disability Category	Number of MCAS-Alt Participants in Primary Disability Category (n)	Percentage of Total MCAS-Alt Participants in Primary Disability Category^c (n/8,896 x 100)	Percentage of Students in Primary Disability Category Who Took MCAS-Alt
Intellectual	5,696	2,979	33.5%	52.4%
Autism	8,552	2,730	30.7%	31.9%
Multiple Disabilities	2,705	865	9.7%	32.0%
Neurological	6,536	563	6.3%	8.6%
Communication	14,972	457	5.1%	3.1%
Specific Learning Disabilities	34,090	368	4.1%	1.1%
Emotional	9,796	237	2.7%	2.4%
Health	14,353	258	2.9%	1.8%
Developmental Delay	1,442	165	1.9%	11.6%
Sensory/Hard of Hearing or Deaf	629	70	0.8%	11.1%
Unidentified Disability	183	71	0.8%	38.8%
Physical	618	69	0.8%	11.2%
Sensory/Vision Impairment or Blind	340	38	0.4%	11.2%
Sensory/Deaf and Blind	91	26	0.3%	28.6%
Total	99,983	8,896	100%	8.9%

^a The number of MCAS-Alt participants includes all students who took MCAS-Alt in at least one subject.

^b Primary disability data were reported by districts to the Department's Student Information Management System (SIMS) in March and June 2014.

^c Percentages of participants by primary disability may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

IV. 2014 MCAS-Alt Student Results

The lowest achievement level for students taking the standard MCAS tests is *Warning/Failing*. MCAS-Alt results are reported in one of three subcategories of *Warning/Failing* called *Progressing*, *Emerging*, and *Awareness*. These three achievement levels provide meaningful information to interpret the achievement of students whose performance is below grade-level. See Appendix D for descriptions of the achievement levels.

In 2014, the majority of students with significant disabilities performed at the *Progressing* level, indicating that they demonstrated their attainment of challenging academic goals at high levels of accuracy and independence, although these goals were below the grade-level expectations for nondisabled students. 2014 MCAS-Alt results are summarized below.

- Across all grades, the percentage of students who scored *Progressing* was:
 - 65.6 percent in ELA
 - 76.5 percent in Mathematics
 - 68.5 percent in Science and Technology/Engineering (grades 5 and 8)
 - 56.9 percent in high school Science and Technology/Engineering

- The percentage of students who scored *Emerging* was:
 - 12.3 percent in ELA
 - 7.3 percent in Mathematics
 - 15.4 percent in Science and Technology/Engineering (grades 5 and 8)
 - 17.6 percent in high school Science and Technology/Engineering

- The percentage of students who scored *Awareness* was:
 - 1.6 percent in ELA
 - 2.1 percent in Mathematics
 - 1.9 percent in Science and Technology/Engineering (grades 5 and 8)
 - 1.0 percent in high school Science and Technology/Engineering

- Overall, 17.1 percent of students who participated in the MCAS-Alt scored *Incomplete*, indicating that their portfolios did not include the requisite evidence to generate an overall achievement level in the subject being assessed. The percentage of students who scored *Incomplete* by content area:
 - 20.2 percent in ELA
 - 14.0 percent in Mathematics
 - 14.2 percent in Science and Technology/Engineering (grades 5 and 8)
 - 23.7 percent in high school Science and Technology/Engineering

Appendix A displays achievement level results by grade and subject.

Appendix B displays the number and percentage of students in each grade and subject who took alternate assessments based on either *alternate achievement standards* (i.e., well below grade-level expectations) or *grade-level achievement standards* (i.e., at or close to grade-level expectations).

V. Competency Determination Portfolios

While the majority of students who participate in MCAS-Alt achieve learning standards that are below the level of complexity of their grade-level peers, each year a small number of students who participate in the high school MCAS-Alt meet the state’s minimum passing standard for high school graduation and earn a Competency Determination (CD). Students who participate in the MCAS-Alt are eligible to earn a CD if they demonstrate a level of knowledge and skills comparable to that of a student who has passed the standard grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering. Portfolios are evaluated by panels of content area experts to ensure that they meet the appropriate standard of performance in that subject. Specific requirements for submission of portfolios for the CD are described in the *Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt*, available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/edmanual.pdf.

Alternate assessments guide educators to provide opportunities for students to learn the standards required to meet the state’s graduation requirement. It is not anticipated, however, that the majority of students with significant cognitive disabilities will earn a CD, because most are working well below grade-level expectations. Students may elect, but are not required, to resubmit their portfolios either in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and/or Science and Technology/Engineering each year beyond grade 10 until they have earned an achievement level of *Needs Improvement*, or have exited publicly funded education. Table 5 shows the number of students who have earned an achievement level of *Needs Improvement* or higher on their MCAS-Alt portfolios since 2001.

Table 5. Number of Students Who Participated in MCAS-Alt and Met the Competency Determination Requirement in Each Subject

Subject	Year														Total (2001– 2014)
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
English Language Arts	8	8	11	3	13	5	10	4	8	8	3	1	3	1	86
Mathematics	3	1	15	6	10	12	10	14	10	7	3	1	12	5	109
Science and Technology/Engineering	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	3	14	12	11	5	9	12	66

Note: STE was added to the Competency Determination requirement beginning with the class of 2010.

VI. MCAS-Alt and PPI Determinations

The participation and achievement of students who take alternate assessments are included in determinations of school and district Progress and Performance Index (PPI) results, using the indices shown in Tables 6. In 2013, the PPI replaced Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as the primary method of providing accountability determinations for districts and schools.

In calculating PPI, each school and district is assigned a 100-point index for each student subgroup based on their achievement and growth/improvement in ELA, mathematics, and STE; and for high schools, graduation and dropout rates. All districts, schools, and subgroups are expected to reduce by half the gap between the 2011 Composite Performance Index (CPI) baseline and proficiency for all students (100 percent) by the 2016–2017 school year.

Students assessed on the MCAS-Alt receive CPI points for the purpose of determining PPI according to the guidelines below. This provision should not be confused with existing state requirements to meet the CD standard, nor should this be misinterpreted as a quota or cap on the number of students who may take alternate assessments.

Table 6
Assignment of Composite Performance Index Points

Students taking standard MCAS tests and MCAS-Alt participants who do not have significant cognitive disabilities			MCAS-Alt participants with significant cognitive disabilities	
MCAS Scaled Score	Achievement Level	CPI Points Awarded	MCAS-Alt Achievement Level	CPI Points Awarded
240–280	Proficient and Advanced	100	Progressing (for certain disability types) ¹	100
230–238	Needs Improvement – High	75	Progressing (for certain disability types) ² and Emerging	75
220–228	Needs Improvement – Low	50	Awareness	50
210–218	Warning/Failing – High	25	Portfolio Incomplete	25
200–209	Warning/Failing – Low	0	Portfolio Not Submitted	0

¹ Intellectual, Sensory/Deaf and Blind, Multiple Disabilities, Autism, and Developmental Delay

² Sensory/Hard of Hearing or Deaf, Communication, Sensory/Vision Impairment or Blind, Emotional, Physical, Health, Specific Learning Disabilities, Neurological

Since 2010, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the total number of students taking the MCAS-Alt who receive 100 CPI points and are included in PPI determination may not exceed one percent of the total number of students assessed. To meet this requirement, the following policy changes have been implemented.

1. The Department will assign 100 CPI points only to students
 - who score *Progressing* on the MCAS-Alt; and
 - who have been identified through the Student Information Management System (SIMS) as having the following **primary disabilities**: *Intellectual, Sensory/Deaf and Blind, Multiple Disabilities, Autism, and Developmental Delay*; and
 - whose **level of need** for special education services has been reported as *High*.

These students are most likely to have significant cognitive disabilities, and as a result, their academic achievement is measured by “alternate achievement standards.” The Department will further prioritize among these students, as needed, to reach a total of one percent, based on the nature of disability and reported level of need for special education services.

2. The Department will assign 75 CPI points to students who score *Progressing* (from the above categories, but with lower levels of need) as well as those who have been identified in SIMS as having the following primary disabilities: *Sensory/Hard of Hearing or Deaf, Communication, Sensory/Vision Impairment or Blind, Emotional, Physical, Health, Specific Learning Disabilities, or Neurological*.
3. All other students with disabilities assessed using the MCAS-Alt who do not score at the *Progressing* level will be assigned CPI points as follows: students scoring at the *Emerging* level receive 75 CPI points, *Awareness* 50 CPI points, and *Incomplete* 25 CPI points.

VII. Resources and Professional Development for Educators

The Department sponsors approximately 16 regional training sessions annually for educators responsible for conducting the MCAS-Alt. In addition, technical assistance is available throughout the school year from the Department's Student Assessment Services office and from members of the MCAS-Alt Teacher Network who are available to assist their colleagues within their district.

Notices of training opportunities are sent by fax and email newsletters and are posted at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/resources.html. Publications related to MCAS-Alt are available on the Department's website at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt and are distributed at Department training sessions.

Assistance for educators conducting MCAS-Alt is available by contacting the Department by email at mcas@doe.mass.edu or by phone at 781-338-3625, or by contacting the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103.

Appendix A. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results by Grade and Subject *

Table 7. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 3

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	214	17.5	130	10.7
Awareness	14	1.1	14	1.1
Emerging	71	5.8	80	6.6
Progressing	919	75.3	995	81.6
Needs Improvement	1	0.1	0	0
Proficient	2	0.2	1	0.1
Advanced	0	0	0	0
Total	1,121	100	1,120	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 8. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 4

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	92	7.2	114	9.1
Awareness	6	0.5	10	0.8
Emerging	255	20.0	79	6.3
Progressing	919	72.2	1,045	83.7
Needs Improvement	1	0.1	0	0
Proficient	0	0	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0
Total	1,273	100	1,248	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 9. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 5

	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/ Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	290	22.0	178	13.2	151	12.5
Awareness	19	1.4	21	1.6	16	1.3
Emerging	50	3.8	61	4.5	182	15.1
Progressing	962	72.8	1,089	80.6	860	71.1
Needs Improvement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proficient	0	0	2	0.1	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,321	100	1,351	100	1,209	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

* Results for first-year ELL students are included in these summaries if they submitted a portfolio.

Table 10. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 6

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	389	30.0	200	14.9
Awareness	44	3.4	56	4.2
Emerging	53	4.1	81	6.0
Progressing	810	62.5	1,002	74.8
Needs Improvement	0	0	0	0
Proficient	0	0	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0
Total	1,296	100	1,339	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 11. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 7

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	95	7.9	176	14.0
Awareness	31	2.6	36	2.9
Emerging	351	29.3	80	6.4
Progressing	719	60.1	963	76.7
Needs Improvement	0	0	0	0
Proficient	0	0	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0
Total	1,196	100	1,255	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 12. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grade 8

	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/ Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	406	36.2	231	19.5	178	16.2
Awareness	26	2.3	35	2.9	27	2.5
Emerging	38	3.4	80	6.7	174	15.8
Progressing	650	58.0	840	70.8	722	65.5
Needs Improvement	1	0.1	0	0	0	0
Proficient	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1
Advanced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,121	100	1,187	100	1,102	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

* Results for first-year ELL students are included in these summaries if they submitted a portfolio.

Table 13. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grades 9 and 10

	Grade 10 English Language Arts		Grade 10 Mathematics		Grades 9 and 10 Science and Technology/ Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	202	22.0	168	18.1	227	24.1
Awareness	8	0.9	8	0.9	9	1.0
Emerging	208	22.7	161	17.4	168	17.9
Progressing	500	54.5	588	63.5	537	57.1
Needs Improvement	0	0	1	0.1	0	0
Proficient	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advanced	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	918	100	926	100	941	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 14. 2014 MCAS-Alt Achievement Level Results: Grades 11 and 12

	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/ Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Incomplete	11	23.9	6	11.3	9	16.4
Awareness	0	0	1	1.9	1	1.8
Emerging	7	15.2	7	13.2	7	12.7
Progressing	27	58.7	37	69.8	30	54.5
Needs Improvement	0	0	1	1.9	6	10.9
Proficient	0	0	1	1.9	2	3.6
Advanced	1	2.2	0	0	0	0
Total	46	100	53	100	55	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

* Results for first-year ELL students are included in these summaries if they submitted a portfolio.

Appendix B. 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt Participation by Grade and Subject

Table 15. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 3

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	69,307	98.3	69,415	98.3
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	2	0.0	1	0.0
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,193	1.7	1,168	1.7
Total students assessed	70,502	100	70,584	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 16. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 4

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	69,214	98.0	69,538	98.1
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	3	0.0	2	0.0
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,390	2.0	1,365	1.9
Total students assessed	70,607	100	70,905	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 17. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 5

	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	69,486	98.0	69,500	98.0	69,566	98.2
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.01
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,393	1.97	1,426	2.0	1,271	1.8
Total students assessed	70,879	100	70,926	100	70,842	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 18. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 6

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	70,304	98.2	70,311	98.1
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	2	0.0	7	0.01
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,296	1.8	1,324	1.9
Total students assessed	71,602	100	71,642	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 19. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 7

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	70,452	98.3	70,733	98.2
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	4	0.01	5	0.01
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,243	1.7	1,283	1.8
Total students assessed	71,699	100	72,021	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 20. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grade 8

	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science and Technology/Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	71,082	98.5	71,054	98.4	70,992	98.5
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	3	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	1,109	1.5	1,141	1.6	1,045	1.45
Total students assessed	72,194	100	72,196	100	72,038	100

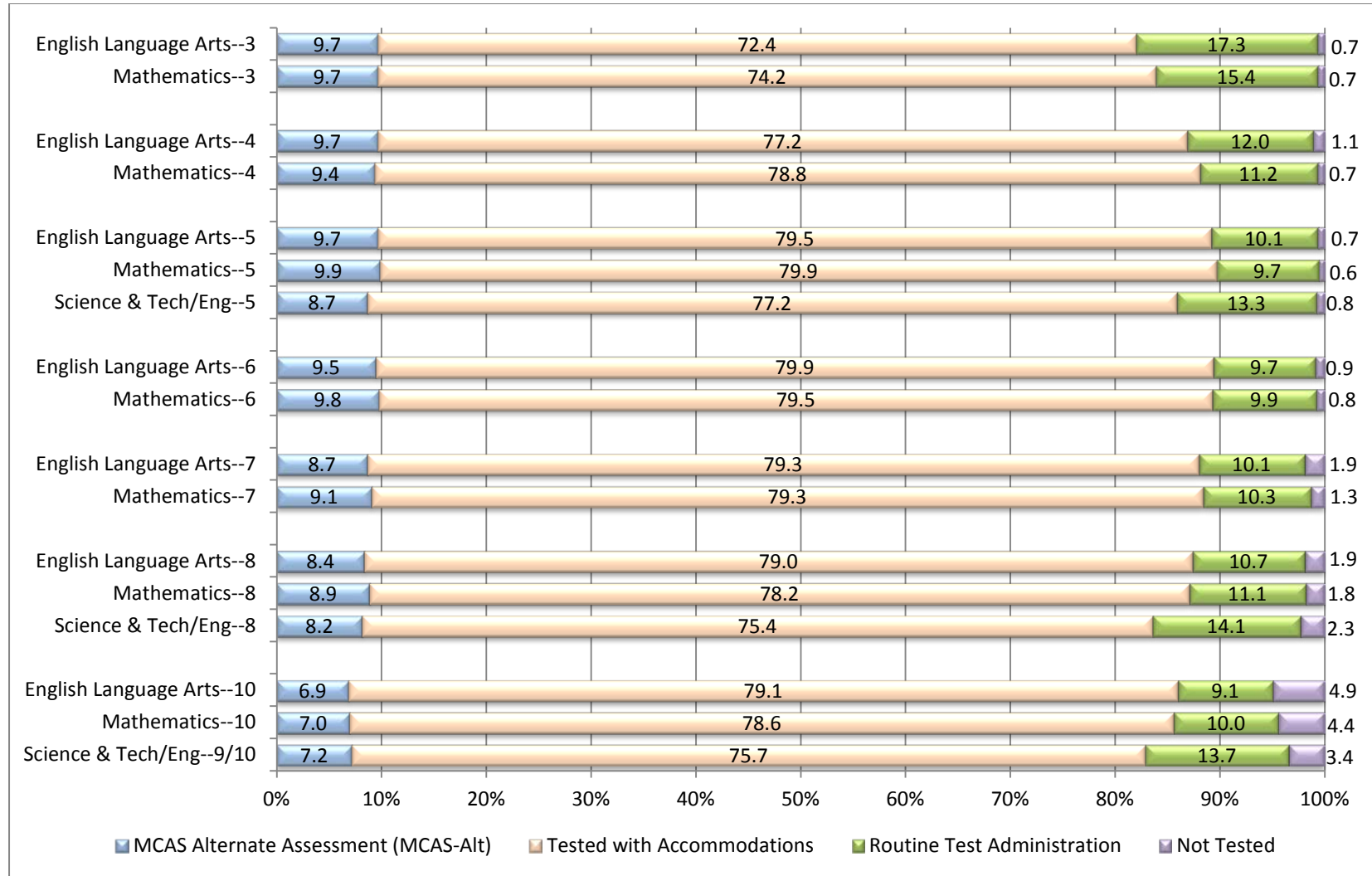
^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 21. Participation in 2014 MCAS and MCAS-Alt: Grades 9 and 10

	Grade 10 English Language Arts		Grade 10 Mathematics		Grades 9 and 10 Science and Technology/Engineering	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent ^a
Standard MCAS test	67,809	98.7	67,934	98.7	69,234	98.7
MCAS-Alt, based on grade-level achievement standards	5	0.01	6	0.01	14	0.02
MCAS-Alt, based on alternate achievement standards	880	1.3	879	1.3	878	1.3
Total students assessed	68,694	100	68,819	100	70,126	100

^a Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Appendix C
2014 MCAS: Rate and Method of Participation by Students with Disabilities
 (Percentages of total students with disabilities in each grade)



Appendix D. MCAS-Alt Achievement Levels and Descriptors

The MCAS-Alt achievement levels shown below are reported for each assessed subject based on scores obtained using the *Rubric for Scoring Portfolio Strands* (see Appendix E).

Achievement Level	Descriptor
Incomplete	The student's portfolio did not include the requisite evidence and information to allow an achievement level to be determined in the content area.
Awareness	The student demonstrates very little understanding of learning standards in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks in the content area (as indicated in the alternate assessment portfolio). The student requires extensive prompting and assistance, and performance is primarily inaccurate.
Emerging	The student demonstrates a simple understanding of a limited number of learning standards in the Massachusetts curriculum framework in the content area at below-grade-level expectations (as indicated in the alternate assessment portfolio). The student requires frequent prompting and assistance, and performance is limited and inconsistent.
Progressing	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of a limited number of learning standards in the Massachusetts curriculum framework in the content area, and addresses below-grade-level expectations (as indicated in the alternate assessment portfolio). The student appears to be receiving challenging instruction and is steadily learning new skills, concepts, and content. The student requires minimal prompting and assistance, and the performance is fundamentally accurate.
*Needs Improvement	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of subject matter in the Massachusetts curriculum framework in the content area and solves some simple problems at grade-level expectations.
*Proficient	The student demonstrates a solid understanding of challenging subject matter in the Massachusetts curriculum framework in the content area and solves a wide variety of problems at grade-level expectations.
*Advanced	The student demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of subject matter in the Massachusetts curriculum framework in the content area and provides sophisticated solutions to complex problems at grade-level expectations.

* In order to earn a Competency Determination, students must achieve a score of either *Proficient* on the grade 10 English Language Arts and Mathematics tests, or a score of *Needs Improvement*, and satisfy the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan; for Science and Technology/Engineering, students must achieve a score of *Needs Improvement* on one of four high school STE tests.

Appendix E. 2014 MCAS-Alt Rubric for Scoring Portfolio Strands

	1	2	3	4	5
Level of Complexity	Portfolio strand reflects little or no basis in, or is unmatched to, curriculum frameworks learning standard(s) required for assessment.	Student primarily addresses social, motor, and communication “access skills” during instruction based on curriculum frameworks learning standards in this strand.	Student addresses curriculum frameworks learning standards that have been modified below grade-level expectations in this strand.	Student addresses a narrow sample of curriculum frameworks learning standards (1 or 2) at grade-level expectations in this strand.	Student addresses a broad range of curriculum frameworks learning standards (3 or more) at grade-level expectations in this strand.
	M	1	2	3	4
Demonstration of Skills and Concepts	The portfolio strand contains insufficient information to determine a score.	Student’s performance is primarily inaccurate and demonstrates minimal understanding in this strand (0–25% accurate).	Student’s performance is limited and inconsistent with regard to accuracy and demonstrates limited understanding in this strand (26–50% accurate).	Student’s performance is mostly accurate and demonstrates some understanding in this strand (51–75% accurate).	Student’s performance is accurate and is of consistently high quality in this strand (76–100% accurate).
Independence	The portfolio strand contains insufficient information to determine a score.	Student requires extensive verbal, visual, and physical assistance to demonstrate skills and concepts in this strand (0–25% independent).	Student requires frequent verbal, visual, and physical assistance to demonstrate skills and concepts in this strand (26–50% independent).	Student requires some verbal, visual, and physical assistance to demonstrate skills and concepts in this strand (51–75% independent).	Student requires minimal verbal, visual, and physical assistance to demonstrate skills and concepts in this strand (76–100% independent).
Self-Evaluation	The portfolio strand does not show evidence of self-correction, task-monitoring, goal-setting, and reflection in this content area.	Student infrequently self-corrects monitors, sets goals, and reflects in this content area— only one example of self-evaluation was found in this strand.	Student self-corrects monitors, sets goals, and reflects in this content area—multiple examples of self-evaluation were found in this strand.		
Generalized Performance		Student demonstrates knowledge and skills in one context, or uses one approach and/or method of response and participation in this strand.	Student demonstrates knowledge and skills in multiple contexts, or uses multiple approaches and/or methods of response and participation in this strand.		