

# Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)

In spring 2017, next-generation MCAS tests were administered for the first time to students in grades 3-8.

These tests were designed to:

- Create stronger alignment to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks by
  - Introducing writing in response to text at all grades
  - Developing and implementing new types of items that more deeply assess the standards
  - Assessing Massachusetts-specific standards
- Develop a consistent set of performance standards across all grades
- Phase in computer-based testing

A good testing system is tied directly to good teaching and learning. In Massachusetts, we set high learning standards-what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level and in each subject. Then, educators create classroom lessons and select textbooks and other resources to provide each child the best education possible.

In order to report results on this new test, we developed new achievement levels, which are used to help teachers and parents understand student performance and areas that require additional support. The new parent/guardian reports will show each student's score for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics and how they performed according to the new achievement levels.

## Next-Generation General Achievement Level Definitions (ELA and mathematics, grades 3–8 only)

Exceeding Expectations	Meeting Expectations	Partially Meeting Expectations	Not Meeting Expectations
A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.	A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.	A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.	A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.