2018 MCAS-Alt

“Grade-level” and “Competency” Portfolios

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Who Should Be Considered for “Grade-level” and “Competency” Portfolios?

Any student with a significant disability who:

- performs classroom work near, at, or above grade-level;
- cannot fully demonstrate grade-level knowledge and skills on the MCAS test in that grade and subject;
- is attempting to earn a score higher than Progressing on the MCAS-Alt (i.e., Partially Meeting Expectations in grades 3-8, or Needs Improvement or higher in high school)
What is a “Grade-Level Portfolio?” (Grades 3-8)

- A collection of grade-level work produced by a student who cannot show what they know on the MCAS test
- Work samples only; **no data charts required.**
  - Grade-level Work Descriptions and Grade-level and Competency Checklist must be used.
- Work samples must address a total of nine (9) standards in each subject.
  - Three required strands/domains: choice of three standards in each, including 4 writing samples for ELA–Writing
  - Multiple work samples needed to demonstrate **all aspects of the standard.**
- Requirements in ELA, Math, and STE are described in 2018 Educator’s Manual.
High School “Competency Portfolio”

- A collection of high school work samples (no data charts) to attempt to earn a Competency Determination and meet the MCAS graduation requirements.
  - Work must be comparable to that of a student who scored at least 220 on MCAS test in that subject.
- Portfolio may be resubmitted with additional work samples if earlier submission received a score of Failing and student wishes to continue working toward a score of Needs Improvement or higher.
  - Otherwise, assessments are not required after grade 10.
- Requirements are described in the 2018 Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt (and on MCAS Appeals web page).
- Feedback Forms with comments are provided to the school by reviewers.
**ELA Competency Portfolio**

- Five essays on required topics
  - Outline, rough draft, revisions, additional draft(s)
  - Final draft
- Essays must be based on high school literature.
- Student must respond to the assignment.
  - No plot summaries or “book reports”

**Mathematics Competency Portfolio**

- Student work must document at least 14 required mathematics learning standards.

**Science and Tech/Eng Competency Portfolio**

- Student work must document each topic in one STE discipline.
  - At least one standard in each topic, 10 standards in all
How Are Portfolios Scored?

Content experts will score portfolios for the following characteristics:

- Are all required **strands** and **standards** submitted?
- Does the work address **all** aspects of the standard?
- Is work at grade-level complexity?
- Are student’s responses accurate? (>75%)
- Is work independently produced? (>75%)
- Does student show all work? (i.e., drafts, steps in solving problems, final version or solution)?
  - The answer alone isn’t enough (i.e., no worksheets).
  - Provide additional descriptions where unclear.
Cover Sheet for “Grade-level” or “Competency” Portfolio

Grade-Level Portfolio Cover Sheet

(Include at front of portfolio only if submitting a Grade-Level portfolio for a student in grades 3–8 who is performing at grade level expectations.)

If this is a Grade-Level Portfolio, indicate the content area(s) submitted:

☐ ELA
☐ MATHEMATICS
☐ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

If this is a high school Competency Portfolio, indicate the content area(s) submitted:

☐ ELA
☐ MATHEMATICS
☐ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING (STE):
  HIGH SCHOOL DISCIPLINE (Select one)
  ☐ BIOLOGY
  ☐ CHEMISTRY
  ☐ INTRODUCTORY PHYSICS
  ☐ TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING
Meeting Graduation Requirements

◆ Students must meet **state and local** requirements to earn a diploma.

◆ Current MCAS graduation requirements remain in effect at least through the graduating **class of 2020**, this year’s grade 10 students, per Board of ESE.

◆ More than 1,300 high school students have earned a **Competency Determination (CD)** either by:
  
  • scoring *Needs Improvement* or higher on their MCAS-Alt competency portfolio; **OR**
  
  • being granted an MCAS Portfolio Appeal.
How Should Schools Approach the Task of Compiling a Competency Portfolio?

1) Determine the students for whom a competency portfolio would be appropriate.

2) Become familiar with submission requirements.

3) Identify staff with whom to collaborate (e.g., special educators, content area teachers).

4) Review MA Curriculum Frameworks and portfolio samples posted to MCAS-Alt and Appeals web pages.

5) Instruct student in the standards required for the portfolio.

6) Collect samples of student’s work for the portfolio.
Other pathways to a diploma

◆ Students who previously took one or more standard MCAS test should also consider taking MCAS retests, even if submitting a competency portfolio. It’s okay to do both after grade 10.

◆ MCAS Cohort Appeal is another option.
  – Cohort = 6 or more other students who took the same course(s) as the appealed student and scored between 220–228 on MCAS
  – See www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/
Resources

◆ Math, ELA, and STE staff in your school/district who can:
  ● check that portfolio evidence is matched to the required standards
  ● assist in adapting activities for individual learners
  ● plan and/or conduct instructional activities
◆ Feedback Forms from previously submitted portfolios
◆ Portfolio samples that scored Needs Improvement posted to MCAS-Alt and MCAS Appeals web pages
◆ 2018 Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt
◆ MCAS Appeals website at: www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/
Contact Information

MA Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education
Student Assessment Office – 781-338-3625
- Robert Pelychaty – rpelychaty@doe.mass.edu
- Dan Wiener – dwiener@doe.mass.edu
- ESE Websites – www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt
  www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/

Measured Progress
- MCAS Service Center – 800-737-5103