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Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Technology Guidelines for MCAS Computer-Based Testing

2025 MCAS Test Administrations
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and Secondary Education

This document was prepared by the
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149
Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370 www.doe.mass.edu

Important Contact Information and Resources

Contact:	**MCAS Service Center**

For questions on:	• general test administration support
	• MCAS Portal and MCAS Student Kiosk such as
	    ○ user accounts
	    ○ technology support and readiness
	    ○ student registration process and loading files
	    ○ viewing student data
	    ○ scheduling tests
	• locating resources
	• shipments of materials

Hours:	7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
Web:	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org
Email:	mcas@cognia.org
Telephone:	800-737-5103 TTY: 888-222-1671

Contact:	**DESE Office of Student Assessment Services**
For questions on:	• policy, such as assigning accessibility features and accommodations • student participation • testing irregularities, including test security incidents and technology failures • reactivating tests for CBT • student data and SIMS (See note below regarding SIMS.) Questions regarding SIMS data should be directed to the district's SIMS contact (go to profiles.doe.mass.edu/search/search.aspx?leftNavID=11239, select **SIMS Contact** from the **Function** menu, and click **Get Results**).
Hours:	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday during test administration windows Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. during the test administration windows, MCAS Service Center representatives will receive calls to 781-338-3625, answer questions regarding logistics, and take messages for Department staff, which will be returned during our regular business hours.
Web:	www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/admin.html
Email:	mcas@mass.gov
Telephone:	781-338-3625

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

Beginning with the winter 2025 administrations, MCAS computer-based testing will use the following components:

- the **MCAS Portal**, the test administration and management website for district test coordinators, technology coordinators, principals/school test coordinators, test administrators, and other staff as needed
- the **MCAS Training Site**, where test coordinators, principals, technology coordinators, and test administrators can practice the tasks required in the MCAS Portal
- the **MCAS Student Kiosk**, the student testing platform

II. MCAS Software Support Plan 2024–25

Districts and schools can use the support plan below to anticipate technology needs for the 2024–25 school year. Students testing on devices that do not meet the technology guidelines may encounter performance-related issues during testing. OS updates should not be made during the spring testing windows. If a school updates their OS after completing Site Readiness in the fall, they should run Site Readiness again prior to testing.

The MCAS online testing subcontractor, eMetric, supports versions and subversions of each operating system as outlined in the eMetric Support Policy column in Tables 2 and 3 below. As new versions and subversions are released throughout the school year, eMetric conducts testing to confirm that they will be supported for MCAS computer-based testing. **Technology coordinators should check this document prior to each test administration window.**

Currently Supported Operating Systems

Table 1 below lists the operating system versions that have been released, have been tested, and are fully supported by eMetric. See Tables 2 and 3 below for anticipated software updates for 2024–25. As new operating systems are released, eMetric will update Table 1 below following successful compatibility testing. Technology coordinators should check this table prior to each test administration window for updates.

Table 1. Currently Supported Operating Systems

Operating System	Version
macOS	13.4, 14.6 (64-bit only)
Linux	Fedora 40 (64-bit only)
Windows	10 (21H2; 22H2)[a], 11 (22H2; 23H2)
Tablet and Chromebook Specific Requirements	
Chromebook	Chrome OS Long-Term Support (LTS)[b] 126 Chrome OS Stable Channel 127, 128, 129 *Note: See Table 2 below for ChromeOS versions that are expected to be supported in winter/spring 2025 MCAS testing*
iPadOS	16.7, 17.6, 18.0

[a] Only in desktop mode. Windows 10S is not supported.
[b] Google releases new versions to the stable channel every four weeks and new versions to the Long-Term Support (LTS) channel every six months. eMetric strongly recommends the use of the LTS channel. Devices on the LTS channel continue to receive frequent security fixes. See https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/11333726 for additional information.

Table 2. ChromeOS Support Plan – Expected Support for Winter and Spring 2025 MCAS Administrations

Operating System	Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date	MCAS Administrations Supported	eMetric Support Policy
ChromeOS™	130	October 2024	February 2025	2025 February High School Science only	eMetric supports the latest three versions of Chrome OS that are released on the Stable channel and the latest versions on the LTS channel. Schools are **not recommended** to use beta versions of ChromeOS, as this may result in errors.
	131	December 2024	March 2025		
	132	January 2025	June 2025	2025 February High School Science and March Retests and Spring	
	133	February 2025	June 2025		
	134	March 2025	June 2025		
	126 LTS	October 2024	April 2025	2025 February Science and March Retests	
	132 LTS	April 2025	October 2025	2025 Spring	

Table 3. Operating System Support Plan – Expected Support for Winter and Spring 2025 MCAS Administrations

Operating System	Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date	eMetric Support Policy
iPadOS®	16.x	May 2024	End of 2024–25 school year	eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple. The latest subversion will be specified in the table below after being fully tested.
	17.x	May 2024	End of 2025–26 school year	
	18.x	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year	
Linux®, Fedora™	40	April 2024	End of 2024–25 school year	eMetric supports the latest version of Fedora.
macOS®	13.x	January 2023	End of 2024–25 school year	eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple. The latest subversion will be specified in the table below after being fully tested.
	14.x	September 2023	End of 2025–26 school year	
	15.x	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year	
Windows®	10 (21H2, 22H2)	July 2015	October 2025	eMetric supports major versions of Windows that are supported by Microsoft. The latest supported minor versions of Windows are supported.
	11 (22H2, 23H2)	October 2021	October 2031	

Note: Android devices will not be supported.

III. MCAS Student Kiosk Device Specifications

Students must use devices that meet the specifications provided in the table below.

Table 4. Student Device Specifications

System Requirements – All Hardware	
Connectivity	Student devices must be able to connect to the internet via wired or wireless networks.
Screen Size	9.7" screen size or larger/ "10-inch class" tablets or larger
Screen Resolution	1024 x 768 or larger
Browser Requirements	
Browsers (used for practice tests only)	Chrome 129 or newer Firefox 131 or newer Microsoft Edge 129 or newer Safari 17 or newer
Desktop and Laptop Specific Requirements	
CPU	1.3 GHz
Memory	2 GB (4GB is strongly recommended for best performance)

IV.   MCAS Portal Browser Specifications

The MCAS Portal is accessible via the following browsers on desktops and laptops:

- Chrome 129 or newer

- Firefox 131 or newer

- Microsoft Edge 129 or newer

- Safari 17 or newer

Additional information on using the MCAS Portal can be found in the *MCAS Portal User Management Guide* located on the MCAS Resource Center. A *Guide to the MCAS Portal* will be posted on the Resource Center on the MCAS Portal page.