

Using MCAS Early Release Data

ELA Grades 3–8 & 10

Math Grades 3–8 & 10

STE Grades 5 & 8

Civics Grade 8

High School Science–Biology & Introductory
Physics

The Office of Student Assessment Services
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Presenters

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Today's Agenda

- 1. What is (and is not) included in the MCAS Early Release?**
- 2. Demonstration: Opening Your Data & Using the Item Analysis Templates**
- 3. Early Release, Preliminary Results, & Discrepancy Reporting**
- 4. Resources & Support**

What's New for 2025?

Scaled Scores and **Provisional Achievement Levels** in V2 for Certain Grades and Subjects:

- ELA and Math (all grades; SGP available early September)
- STE grades 5 & 8

Civics grade 8 V1 (first operational year; reporting and practice categories included)

Competency Determination (CD) status not updated after Jan. 31, 2025.

- Students no longer participate in high school tests/retests for CD purposes. Details in the [CD Update FAQ](#).

What's New for 2025? (cont'd)

MCAS Resource Center

- Early data in [MCAS Portal](#) (replaces PearsonAccess Next)

Outplaced students are included in the district .CSV file.

Reporting Category Updates

- Reporting categories (RepCat1, RepCat2, etc.) in .CSV files now in alphabetical order

Subject	Item Group	Reporting Category Number
ELA	Language	1
	Reading	2
	Writing	3

- See Item Analysis Template for all reporting categories.

1. What is (and is not) included in the MCAS Early Release?

Early Release Data in the MCAS Portal

.CSV data file versions

- V1 Computer-Based Test (CBT) machine-scored items, short answer Math
- V2 CBT and Paper-Based Test (PBT) all items
- Item score; total score; total possible; percent possible points
blank = no response; “–” = item not yet scored (V1)
- Reporting Category results
- Accommodations and accessibility features

Participation status not yet available

- Tested (T), Absent (ABS), Medically documented absent (MED), Transfer (TRN), not tested first-year EL (NTL) and others updated in August preliminary file in DropBoxes

Early Release Data in the MCAS Portal (cont'd)

PDF Student Roster (school level only):

- Item score, total points, void, not tested medical, scaled score, and provisional achievement level (certain V2 results)
- Duplicate records will be resolved in August preliminary file.

ELA Released Essays

- Grades 3–8 approximately 50%
- High school 100%

Comparison Between Machine-Scored & Hand-Scored Items

Subject/ Grade	Machine-Scored Items CBT V1				Hand-Scored Items CBT/PBT V2				Raw Score
	One-Point Selected Response (SR)	Two- point SR	Machine- Scored Points	Percent Machine- Scored	Constructed Response (CR)	Essays	Hand- Scored Points	Percent Hand- Scored	
ELA Grades									Total Points
3–4	24	5	34	77%	1 (3 pts.)	1 (7 pts.)	10	23%	44
5	24	5	34	71%	0	2 (7 pts.)	14	29%	48
6–8	24	5	34	68%	0	2 (8 pts.)	16	32%	50
10	21	6	33	67%	0	2 (8 pts.)	16	33%	49

Comparison Between Machine-Scored & Hand-Scored Items (cont'd)

Subject/ Grade	Machine-Scored Items CBT V1				Hand-Scored Items CBT/PBT V2				Raw Score
	One-Point SR & Short Answer	Two-Point SR	Machine- Scored Points	Percent Machine- Scored	CR	N/A	Hand- Scored Points	Percent Hand- Scored	
Math Grades									Total Points
3	36	0	36	75%	4 (3 pts.)		12	25%	48
4–8	34	2	38	70%	4 (4 pts.)		16	30%	54
10	32	6	44	73%	4 (4 pts.)		16	27%	60
STE Grades	One-Point SR	Two-Point SR	Machine- Scored	Percent Machine-	Two-Point CR	Three- Point CR	Hand- Scored	Percent Hand-	Total Points
5 & 8	32	3	38	70%	2	4	16	30%	54

Using Early MCAS Results

- **During Data Embargo**

- Use results for educational planning purposes **within the school and district.**
- Do **not** share results outside your organization.

Using Early MCAS Results (cont'd)

- **Identify potential discrepancies.**
 - Report missing tests to the MCAS Service Center.
 - Retain potential discrepancies (incorrect SASID, accommodations, medically documented absence, first-year EL, transfer) until discrepancy reporting period (**August 6–11**).
- **Identify demographic mismatches.**
 - Report any student name changes or discrepancies to your District SIMS Contact for resolution prior to end-of-year (June) SIMS.
 - Use People Search to locate your District SIMS Contact on [School and District Profiles](#).
- **Note that records in the MCAS Portal cannot be updated.**

2. Demonstration: Opening Your Data & Using the Item Analysis Templates

Secure Website for this Process

- [MCAS Portal](#)

Welcome to the MCAS Portal!

	
Administration	Reporting
Organize students for testing, schedule tests, and monitor testing progress.	View summary and individual student results by test and content standards.

- If you do not have a Portal account, contact your school or district test coordinator.
- Call MCAS Service Center (800-737-5103) if you still cannot access the Portal.

Secure Website for this Process (cont'd)

Report Selection in the Download Center

The screenshot shows the 'Download Center' interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Back to MCAS Portal', 'Download Center' (highlighted with a red box), 'Created For Me', 'Created By Me', 'Resources', and 'Custom Reports'. Below the navigation, there are several filters: 'Program:' with a dropdown set to 'MCAS'; 'Report:' with a dropdown set to 'Individual Student Report' (highlighted with a red box); 'Year:' with a dropdown set to 'Individual Student Report'; 'Admin:' with a dropdown set to 'Early Release Data Files'; and 'Grade:' with a radio button selected for 'HS'. Below these filters is the 'Organization' section, which includes a search bar 'Search within Massachusetts' and a list of organizations: 'Massachusetts', 'Abington-00010000' (highlighted with a red circle), and 'Academy Of the Pacific Rim Charter Public (Distric-04120000)'. Each organization has a dropdown arrow next to it.

Select the Report drop-down for .CSV data files and PDF student rosters

Organization drop-down has a list of schools.

Data files available at the school and district levels; rosters available only at the school level.

Available to users with the following roles:

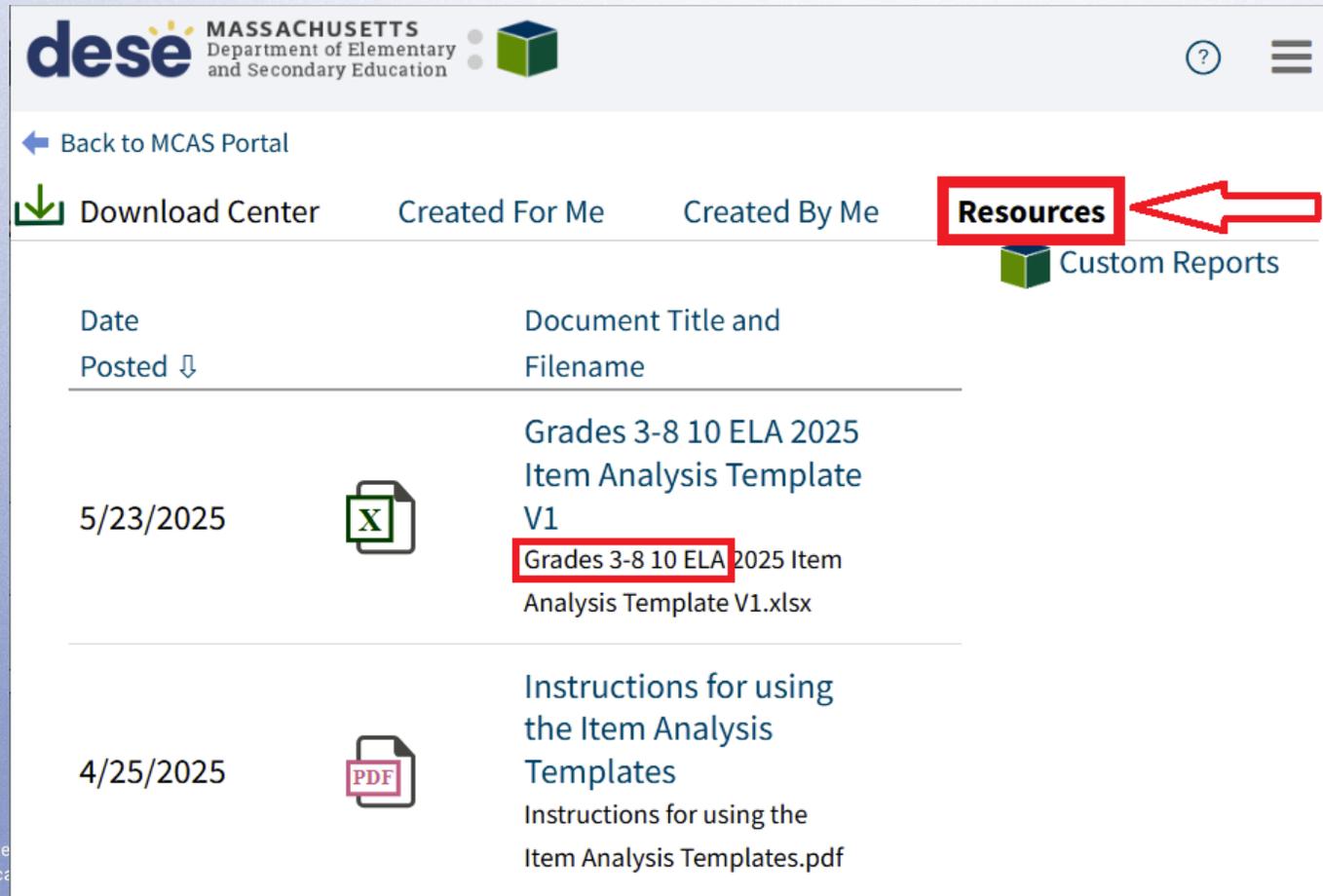
- School or district test coordinator
- Report Access Only

Test coordinators can assign the appropriate role to other users in their organization. Call the MCAS Service Center for assistance.

Item Analysis Template and Instructions

- **MCAS Portal Resources Tab**

- Item analysis templates are pre-populated with state item results.
- Step-by-step Instructions for Using the Item Analysis Templates



The screenshot shows the MCAS Portal interface. At the top, the logo for 'dese MASSACHUSETTS Department of Elementary and Secondary Education' is visible. Below the logo, there is a navigation bar with a 'Back to MCAS Portal' link, a 'Download Center' button, and filters for 'Created For Me' and 'Created By Me'. The 'Resources' tab is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the navigation bar, there is a table with two columns: 'Date Posted' and 'Document Title and Filename'. The table contains two entries:

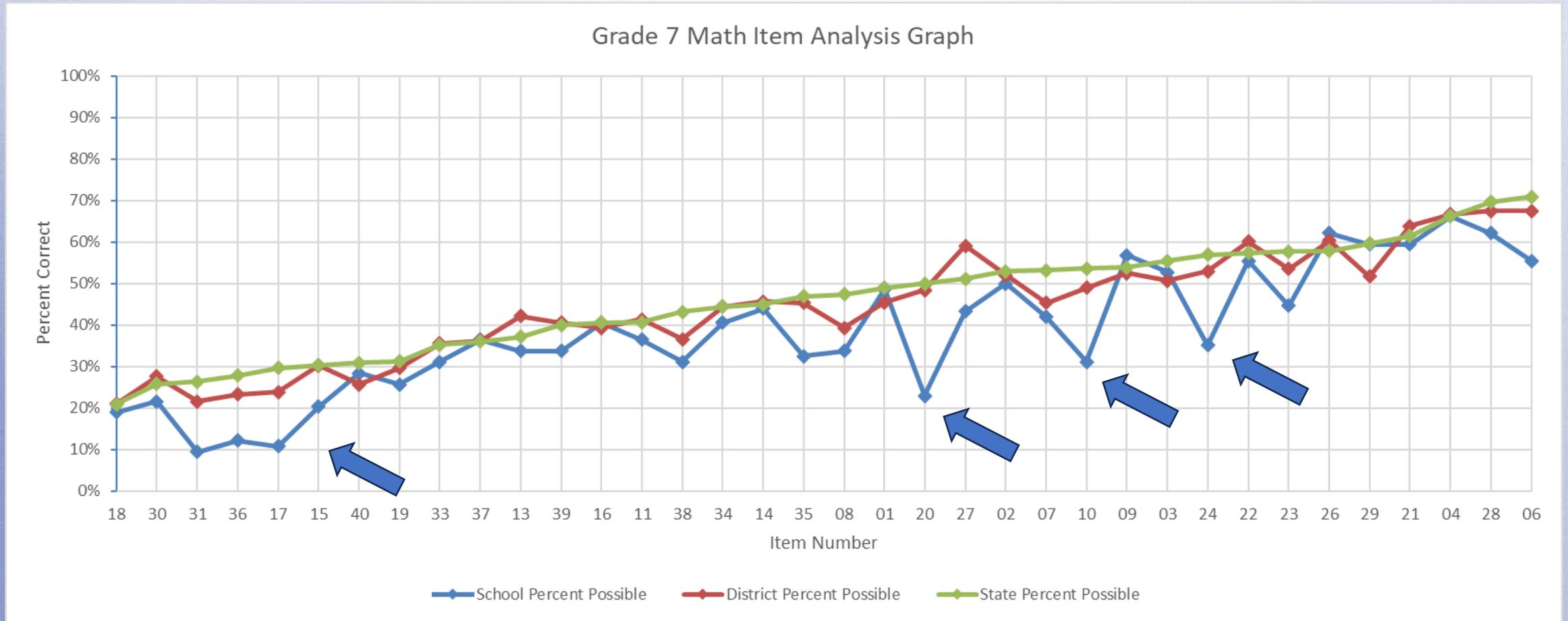
Date Posted	Document Title and Filename
5/23/2025	Grades 3-8 10 ELA 2025 Item Analysis Template V1 Grades 3-8 10 ELA 2025 Item Analysis Template V1.xlsx
4/25/2025	Instructions for using the Item Analysis Templates Instructions for using the Item Analysis Templates.pdf

Using the Item Analysis Template (Replicates Edwin Analytics Report IT301)

Portal .CSV FILE														
Item Number	Reporting Category	2017 MA Curriculum Framework	Item Type	Item Description	Correct Answer	Max Points	Release Status	School Average Point	District Average Point	State Average Point	School Percent Correct	District Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	School - State Diff.
01	Reading	R.PK-12.4	SR	Determine how a metaphorical expression in a specific paragraph contributes to the reader's understanding of an article.	B	1	Released			0.64	0%	0%	64%	-64
02	Reading	R.PK-12.5	SR	Determine how a specific paragraph contributes to the development of ideas in an article.	B	1	Released			0.36	0%	0%	36%	-36
03	Language	L.PK-12.2	SR	Determine the purpose of commas in a specific sentence of an article.	A	1	Released			0.43	0%	0%	43%	-43
04	Reading	R.PK-12.6	SR	Determine the purpose of an author's use of second-person point of view in a specific paragraph of an article.	C	1	Released			0.68	0%	0%	68%	-68
05	Language	L.PK-12.4	SR	Determine the meaning of a word as it is used in a specific paragraph of an article.	B	1	Released			0.71	0%	0%	71%	-71
06	Reading	R.PK-12.8	SR	Identify a sentence from an article that supports an author's primary argument in the article.	B	1	Released			0.58	0%	0%	58%	-58

- Copy average item school/district scores from the .CSV file to the template.
- Use Reporting Category, Framework, Item Type filters to generate different line-graphs of the data.

Using the Item Analysis Template (Replicates Edwin Analytics Report IT302)



Student PDF Roster in Download Center



MCAS Early Release Roster Report (V1) Machine Scored Items English Language Arts-Spring 2025

District Name: Sample
 District Code: 00000000
 School Name: Sample Middle School
 School Code: 00000001
Test Grade: 5

Student Count: 164

Total Possible Points: 34

Student Name	SASID	Test Mode	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 CV	12 ID	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 CV	31 ID	Total Points	Void	Not Tested Reason
		O	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	29		
		O	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	-	-	25		

- Records sorted alphabetically within grade
- Student counts within grade

Test Mode:
O = Online
P = Paper

Not Tested Reason:
M = Medical Absence
T = Technical Issue

- = Item Has Not Yet Been Scored
 ✓ = Voided Test Results

Blank = No Answer

CV = Convention Score
ID = Idea Development Score

Recap of Steps for Loading Data into Templates

1. Download your .CSV file from MCAS Portal
 - Insert blank rows at the top; note the last row of data in the file
2. Enter the subtotal formula in .CSV file: **=Subtotal(1, *cell range**)** in a blank cell above the Item number.
 - Copy the subtotal formula to the row above the remaining items.
 - For V2, also copy the subtotal formula to the RepCat[†] cells.
3. Set filters to remove void and not tested records; use the school filter if you are a district user; set test code filter (e.g., MAT05).
4. Copy item subtotals from the .CSV file to the template using “Paste Special” with “values” and “transpose” selected.
5. Save the file as a spreadsheet (XLSX format) to preserve formulas.

*Cell Range is all records; [†]See Reporting Categories tab in templates for details

3. Early Release, Preliminary Results, & Discrepancy Reporting

Early Release Data Considerations

- Results have not been filtered; all students who attempted at least one item are included.
- The following data are included in early release files, but results will **not** be aggregated with school/district for official reporting:
 - First-year ELs (validation file in DropBoxes in mid/late August)
 - Void/medical absence
 - Partially tested (didn't attempt at least one item in each session)
- Test status codes (absent, medical, security breach, transfer) and typed response accommodation (PBT only) will appear in the preliminary file in August (MCAS 2025 DropBoxes).

Preliminary Results

Date	Preliminary Results	Location
Early August	Grades 3–8, 10 ELA/Math; Grades 5 & 8 STE; Civics; high school science (scaled scores and achievement levels for all except Civics)	MCAS 2025 DropBoxes in the DESE Security Portal
Mid-August	Grades 3–8 10 ELA/Math; Grades 5 & 8 STE; Civics; high school science (scaled scores and achievement levels for all except Civics)	Edwin Analytics in the DESE Security Portal
Mid-September	SGP & official embargoed results (includes Civics)	MCAS 2025 DropBoxes in the DESE Security Portal

Discrepancy Reporting

Date	Discrepancy Reporting Period	Location
Early August	Examine student rosters and data files for potential discrepancies (missing results; incorrect SASID; incorrect participation status). Details forthcoming in Student Assessment Update	MCAS Service Center (passwords in MCAS 2025 DropBoxes in the DESE Security Portal)

4. Resources & Support

Resources

Resource	Location
MCAS Resource Center	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org
MCAS Portal, Portal Guide, User Guide	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal
Modules and recordings of previous trainings	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training
Released item information and student work (posted as available)	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/released-items
Student Assessment Updates (Biweekly email with important updates about the MCAS program)	www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/updates.html Subscribe using this link: http://eepurl.com/ghSOhH

Email and Phone Support

MCAS Service Center

- Questions on logistics and technology
 - **Web:** <https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/>
 - **Email:** mcas@cognia.org
 - **Phone:** 800-737-5103
 - **TTY:** 888-222-1671
 - Live chat is available at the link on the bottom of the page at the [MCAS Resource Center](#)

DESE Student Assessment Services

- Policy questions (e.g., student participation, accommodations)
 - **Web:** www.doe.mass.edu/mcas
 - **Email:** mcas@mass.gov
 - **Phone:** 781-338-3625
 - **TTY:** 800-439-2370

THANK YOU

The Office of Student Assessment Services



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