

MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide

2025-2026 MCAS Test Administrations *Posted September 3, 2025*



This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Pedro Martinez, Commissioner

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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

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I. Introduction

This document is intended for technology staff responsible for setting up the MCAS computer-based testing technology.

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

This document contains information on technology requirements, instructions for installing the MCAS Student Kiosk and conducting Site Readiness testing on student devices used for computer-based testing, and guidance on error messages that could occur when using the MCAS Student Kiosk.

For more information on working with the MCAS Portal, see the *Guide to the MCAS Portal*, which is available in the MCAS Resource Center.

A. Technology Overview

The MCAS Student Kiosk is used by students for secure online testing. The kiosk restricts access to other computer applications during testing and is a cross-platform application. The kiosk runs on Windows®, Mac®, and Linux® operating systems, iPad® tablets, and Chromebook $^{\text{TM}}$ notebook computers.

Information on using third-party accessibility or accommodations software with the kiosk can be found in <u>Appendix E: Guidelines for Using Assistive Technology as an MCAS Test</u>

<u>Accommodation</u> of the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2025–2026 Test Administrations*.

B. Overview of Steps for Technology Coordinators

The MCAS Student Kiosk is installed and set up by a Technology Coordinator (TC). District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and School Test Coordinators (STCs) can also perform these tasks.

After your DTC or STC has set up your TC account, you will receive your user account information via email. If you have not received your account information with your login credentials, contact your DTC or STC.

Follow the steps below to install and set up the MCAS Student Kiosk for your school. Further information on each step is provided in subsequent sections.

- 1. Review the Technology Guidelines in Section II of this document to ensure that you have the correct devices and equipment for student testing.
- 2. Configure your network to support student testing on the kiosk by following the instructions in Section III: Technology Setup.
- 3. Download and install the appropriate MCAS Student Kiosk to each student testing device by following the instructions in Section IV: MCAS Student Kiosk Installation below:

- ChromeOS application
- <u>iPadOS application</u>
- Linux
- MacOS
- Windows

If your student testing devices have the MCAS Student Kiosk installed from the 2024–25 school year, please see the table below and the instructions in each section linked above.

Kiosk Installed in 2024–25	Action Required for MCAS Testing in 2025–26
ChromeOS	Uninstall the old MCAS kiosk app from the ChromeOS management console. Add the new MCAS Web app and extension.
iPad	Manually update the kiosk if automatic updates are not enabled.
Linux	Uninstall the old kiosk and then download and install the new kiosk.
MacOS	Schools are not required to uninstall the old kiosk. They will need to download and install the new kiosk.
Windows	Schools are not required to uninstall the old kiosk. They will need to download and install the new kiosk.

4. Complete <u>Site Readiness</u>, using the Site Readiness tool, and certify that the school's devices and technology are ready for testing. All schools should complete Site Readiness to confirm that the school's technology infrastructure has been set up correctly and that testing devices meet minimum requirements and have been properly configured.

Note: To ensure that the school technology setup is ready for MCAS testing, it is recommended to complete Site Readiness at least four weeks prior to testing. When all the configurations that will be used for student testing are ready, <u>certify</u> that the site is ready for student testing.

Contact the MCAS Service Center with any questions about technology guidelines, downloading the MCAS Student Kiosk, and the Site Readiness tool.

II. Technology Guidelines

A. Operating System Support Plan

The table below describes eMetric's plan for supporting operating systems during the upcoming school year for MCAS computer-based testing. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines. Districts and schools can use the support plan below to anticipate technology needs for the 2025–26 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.

Please note the following major updates:

- Windows 10 is no longer supported
- eMetric has updated their Chrome OS support policy to support a larger number of ChromeOS versions each year, as described in the table below.

Table 1. Operating System Support Plan

Operating System	Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date	eMetric Support Policy
_	138+	July 2025	eMetric supports the versions of ChromeOS that	
Chrome OS™	132+ LTS	April 2025	are current as of July of each school year. These versions will be supported through the end of the school year (June). Schools are not recommended to use beta versions of ChromeOS, as this may result in errors.	
iPadOS®	17.7+	May 2024	End of 2025–26 school year	eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple.
	18.5+	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year	
	26	Expected fall 2025	End of 2027-28 school year	
Linux®, Fedora™ (64-bit only)	42	April 2025	End of 2025–26 school year	eMetric supports the latest version of Fedora.
	14.7+	September 2023	End of 2025–26 school year	
macOS [®] (64-bit only)	15.5+	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year	eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple.
	26	Expected fall 2025	End of 2027-28 school year	
Windows [®]	11 (22H2, 23H2, 24H2)	October 2021	October 2031	eMetric supports major versions of Windows that are supported by Microsoft. The latest supported minor versions of Windows are supported.

B. MCAS Student Kiosk Device Specifications

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

Table 2. 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 "11-inch class" tablets or larger are highly recommended		
Screen Resolution	1024 x 768 or larger		
Browser Requirements			
Browsers (used for practice tests only)	Chrome 138 or newer Firefox 140 or newer Microsoft Edge 138 or newer Safari 18.5 or newer		
Desktop and Laptop Specific Requirements			
CPU	1.3 GHz		
Memory	2 GB (4GB is strongly recommended for best performance)		

C. MCAS Portal Browser Specifications

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

- Chrome 138 or newer
- Firefox 140 or newer
- Microsoft Edge 138 or newer
- Safari 18.5 or newer

D. Accommodations with Supported Operating Systems

Certain accommodations in the MCAS Student Kiosk are only supported on specific operating systems as described in the table below.

Table 3. Accommodations with Supported Operating Systems

Accommodation	Supported Operating System	
Compatible Assistive Technology	Windows	
Mouse Pointer	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, and iPadOS*	
Screen Reader	Windows (NVDA, JAWS)	
Speech-to-Text Standard	W. 1 00 01 00 1:D 100	
Speech-to-Text Special Access	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, and iPadOS	
Word Prediction Standard	Windows mas CC Chromo CC and iPad CC	
Word Prediction Special Access	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, and iPadOS	

*iPadOS: It is highly recommended to use an external mouse.

III. Technology Setup

A. Network Connectivity

All student testing devices should have access to the internet and be able to access the server using HTTP/HTTPS protocols on ports 80 and 443.

Allow the following sites on ports 80 and 443 in content filtering proxies or other locally used proxy software.

- https://mcas.cognia.org
- https://mcas-training.cognia.org
- https://mcas-practicetest.cognia.org
- fonts.googleapis.com/
- themes.googleusercontent.com/
- googleusercontent.com/
- https://cognito-identity.us-west-2.amazonaws.com
- https://cognito-identity.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
- https://eventsapi.emetric.net/maprod/router
- app.getsentry.com
- dc.services.visualstudio.com
- az416426.vo.msecnd.net
- speech.beta.cowriter.dev
- wss://*.cowriter.dev
- https://ws.cowriter.dev/
- https://www.google.com/speech-api

If you are working with sandboxing applications, complete one of the following steps while installing the kiosk, and contact the MCAS Service Center with questions:

- Choose a network folder location for local caching.
- Make sure the default location, such as C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\eMetric (%localappdata%/emetric), and its contents are not deleted by the sandboxing applications.

Note: Student testing data, including encrypted responses, will be saved to the indicated location only if the network connection or internet connection is lost during the test. Students will be able to continue testing without interruption, but their testing data will be saved in the indicated folder.

A note about OneDrive:

OneDrive notifications may interfere with the kiosk and student test taking experience. If OneDrive attempts to steal the screen's focus during testing, the kiosk will display a white screen. The student will then have to click anywhere on the white screen to regain focus in the kiosk; once clicked they will be able to resume testing where they left off. To prevent this, schools should use one of the following approaches:

- If OneDrive is not needed or used on student devices, schools are recommended to disable OneDrive during student testing.
- If OneDrive cannot be disabled, please take necessary steps to prevent any
 administrative actions, including file sharing or synchronization and administration
 updates to OneDrive settings, that would trigger a OneDrive notification during student
 testing.

B. Bandwidth

The ability of a school's network to support a given number of online testers is a function of the available bandwidth between the student's test device and the data center serving the test content, the number of students who will be downloading tests, and the size of the test content. The Site Readiness tool's Connection Capacity Test will measure the bandwidth between a student's test device and the data center and determine the number of tests that can be downloaded at the school simultaneously. Use the results of this test to gauge the impact your bandwidth will have on student testing.

Schools with low internet bandwidth (i.e., an internet download speed of less than 1.5 Mbps or an internet upload speed of less than 256 Kbps) should stagger student start times by 1–2 minutes to reduce the likelihood of interruptions.

C. Thin-Client Environments

When using thin-client environments, such as Terminal Services, Citrix, or LTSP, make sure that there is enough memory, CPU, and bandwidth on the server to accommodate multiple student test sessions. The application requires a minimum of 80 MB of memory per client session and performance can vary depending on the size and type of the test. Allowing multiple sessions on an improperly sized thin-client environment will result in poor performance.

Additionally, schools using thin-clients need to be cautious when there is 1 GB or less of physical memory on the student testing device. In this case, a local installation is strongly recommended. As a rule, if you can use the ChromeTM browser to access web-based email or web-based streaming services on all student testing devices simultaneously, then testing should go well.

In thin-client environments, the accounts students use to log in to the student testing devices (not the MCAS test login) must be unique for each student. Also, each account must have its own dedicated user profile.

For assistance, contact the MCAS Service Center at mcas@cognia.org or 800-737-5103.

D. Monitor Settings

Ensure that all monitors used for testing are set to the default color settings. If a student will use the zoom in/out tool, review the recommended screen resolutions in Table 4 below:

Table 4. Monitor Settings

Required Zoom Level for Student	Recommended Screen Resolution
100% (No Zoom)	1024 x 768 (or Higher)
150%	1920 x 1080 (or Higher)
200%	1920 x 1080 (or Higher)
300%	1920 x 1080 (or Higher)

Note: These are only recommended screen resolutions. Use the screen resolution the student is most comfortable with. The student or test administrator may set the zoom level within the MCAS Student Kiosk when the student logs in at the time of testing.

IV. MCAS Student Kiosk Installation

A. ChromeOS Application Installation

Managed Chromebooks

These instructions are for technology coordinators who have access to the Chromebook device management console to administer and manage their Chromebook devices.

New for 2025–26: As part of Google's ongoing updates to ChromeOS, support for legacy ChromeOS Apps, including the MCAS Chrome app, is being phased out. Starting in the 2025–26 school year, a new **Progressive Web App (PWA)** will be required for all online testing on ChromeOS devices.

What You Need to Know

- New App Required: The new PWA must be installed on all ChromeOS devices used for testing.
- **Easy Setup**: Step-by-step instructions for setup and configuration are included in this quide below.
- **Extension Pairing**: The PWA will work alongside a Chrome extension to support secure kiosk testing.
- Test the New App Before Administration Starts: We strongly recommend schools and districts coordinate with their ChromeOS administrators to install and test the new PWA on devices at least 4 weeks in advance of the administration window.

Step 1: Set up your school technology.

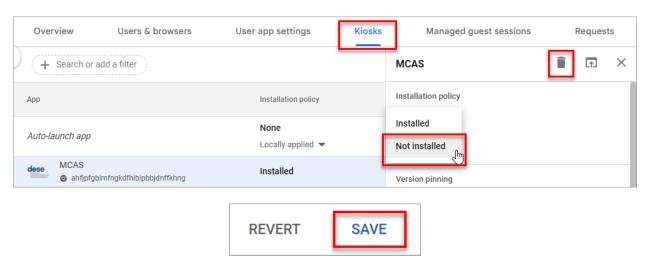
Review section II: <u>Technology Guidelines</u> and section III: <u>Technology Setup</u> in detail.

Step 2: If you have the 2024–25 MCAS Student Kiosk app installed, uninstall it by following the directions below.

If your school installed the MCAS Chrome app the previous year, follow the steps below to remove the legacy MCAS Chrome App before adding the MCAS web app for ChromeOS. If you are installing the MCAS Student Kiosk on your Chrome devices for the first time, please skip to step 3: Install the MCAS web app for ChromeOS.

Uninstall the legacy MCAS Chrome App

- 1. Sign in to the Google Admin Console.
- On the left side, navigate to: Devices > Chrome > Apps & extensions.
- 3. Select the **Kiosks** tab at the top of the page.
- 4. Select the **organizational unit** for which you want to uninstall the legacy MCAS Chrome App.
- Select **Not installed** and then **Save** to remove the app from the Chromebooks in the
 organizational unit. Alternatively, you can go to your top-most organization unit and
 select the **Delete** icon and then select **Save** to delete the app completely from your
 Google Admin Console.



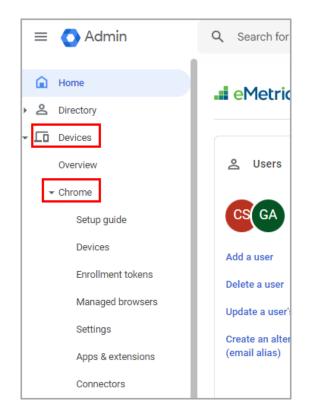
6. Once the MCAS Chrome App has been removed, follow the steps below for installing the MCAS web app and extension.

Note: If you do not have a dedicated TC, a DTC or STC can complete all the technology coordinator tasks. Ensure you have the correct administrative rights to make changes to student testing devices.

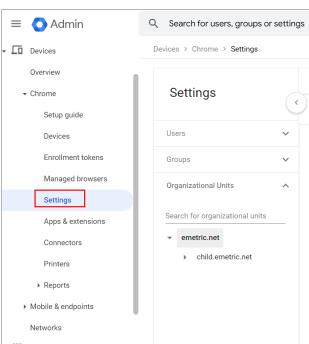
Step 3: Install the MCAS web app for ChromeOS

To install the MCAS web app:

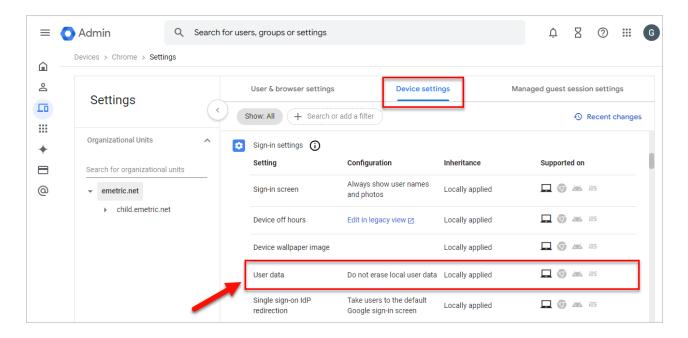
- 1. As the Chromebook administrator, log in to your ChromeOS management console (https://admin.google.com).
- 2. Expand the **Devices** menu, and then select **Chrome**.



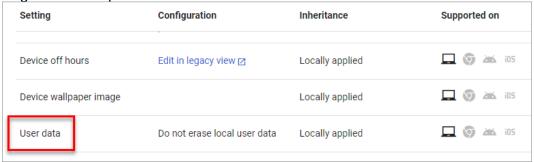
3. Click on Settings.

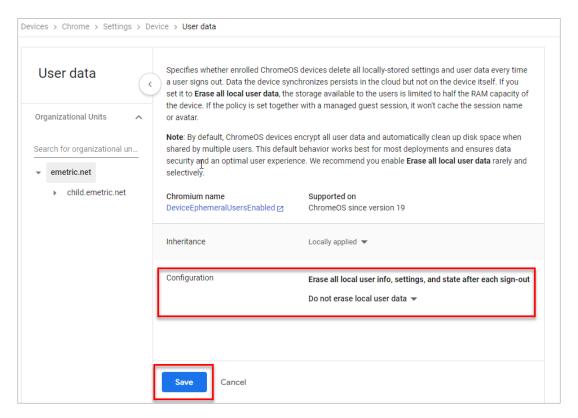


4. Click on the **Device Settings** tab and scroll to **User Data** in the **Sign-In Settings** section.



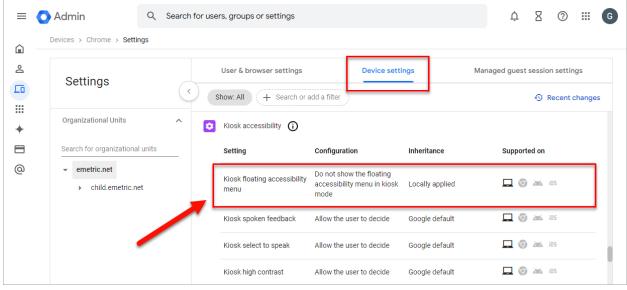
5. Verify that **Do not erase all local data** is set; if not, click on **User Data** to update the setting with the drop-down menu and click **Save**.



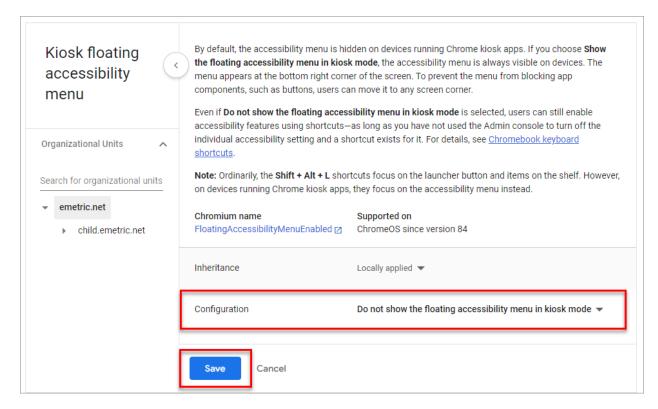


Note: This setting is crucial to allow Chrome local storage to be used to store student responses if network connectivity is lost. If this is not configured, student responses will not be saved to the device in the case of internet disruptions.

6. While still in the Device Settings tab, scroll to the **Kiosk Floating Accessibility Menu** in the **Kiosk Accessibility** section.



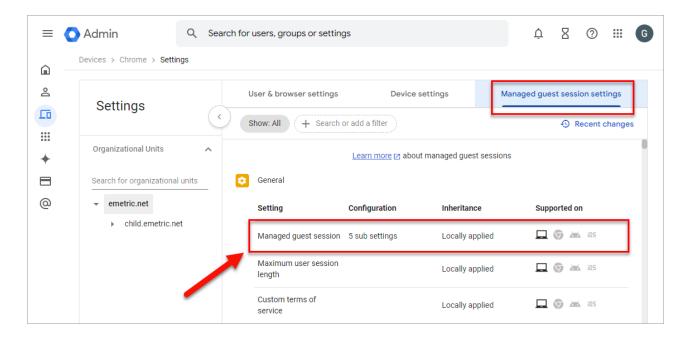
7. Verify that **Do not show the floating accessibility menu in kiosk mode** is set; if not, click on **Kiosk Floating Accessibility Menu** to update the setting with the drop-down menu and click **Save**.



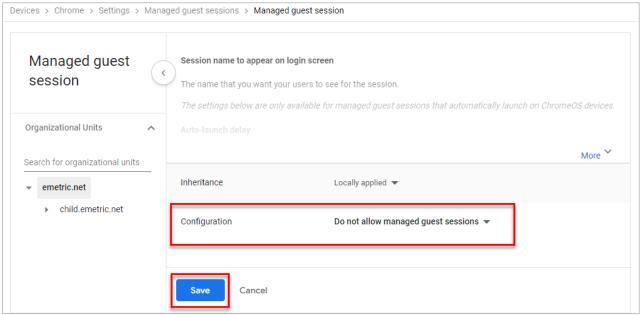


Note: Students with accommodations that are embedded within the MCAS Student Kiosk, including text-to-speech, word prediction, and speech-to-text, will access these accommodations directly through the MCAS Student Kiosk as they are delivered by the test platform. ChromeOS contains native accessibility features that may appear within the kiosk with a floating menu. Technology coordinators should disable the floating accessibility menu in Google Admin before testing occurs to avoid issues.

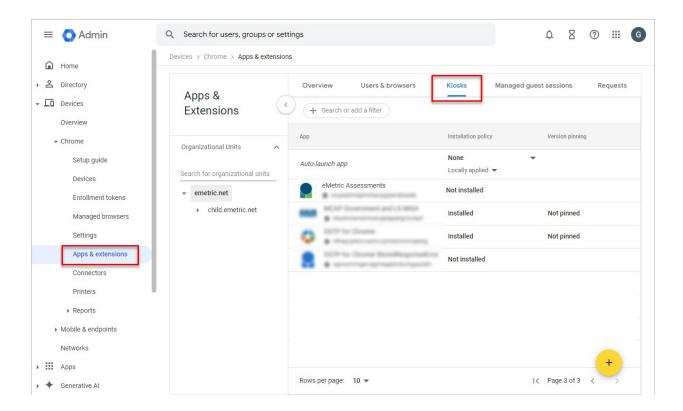
8. On the Settings page, select the **Managed guest session settings** tab and then select **Managed guest session**.



9. Ensure that Managed guest session is set to **Do not allow managed guest sessions** and click **Save**.



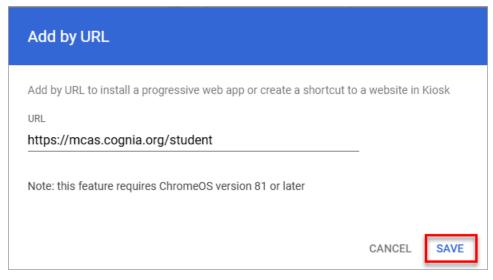
10. Navigate back to the **Chrome** menu on the left side of the screen and select **Apps & Extensions** and then **Kiosks**.



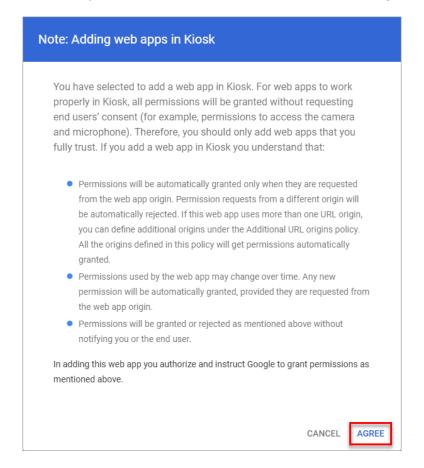
11. Expand the yellow + button in the bottom-right corner and select Add by URL.



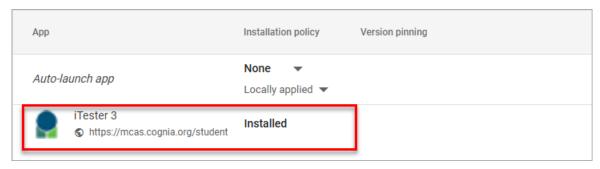
12. Enter https://mcas.cognia.org/student and select Save.



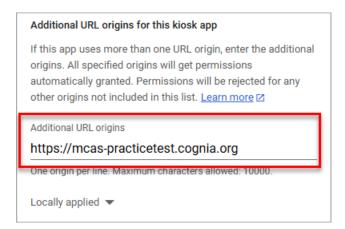
13. Google will then prompt you to allow permissions to this app. Select **Agree**.



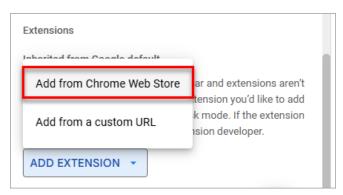
14. The new MCAS web app for ChromeOS appears in the app list.



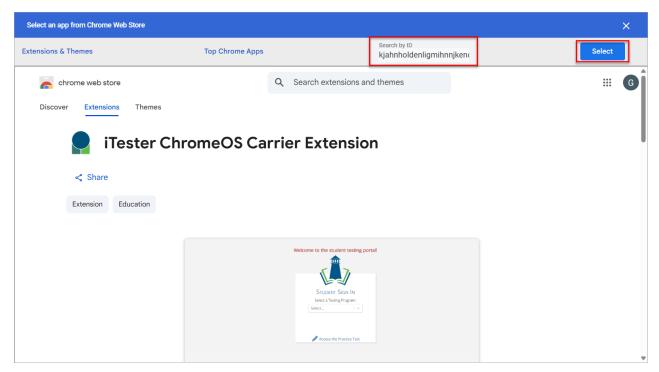
15. Select the MCAS app and scroll down the right-side bar to **Additional URL origins** field to add the following URL, https://mcas-practicetest.cognia.org.



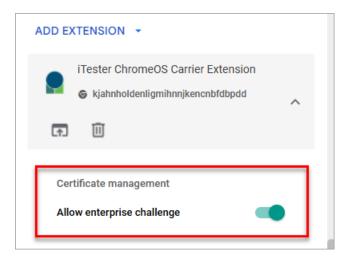
16. Scroll down further on the right-side bar to the **Extension** section. Click **ADD EXTENSION** and from the pop-up list select **Add from Chrome Web Store**.



17. In the Chrome Web Store enter the iTester ChromeOS Carrier extension ID **kjahnholdenligmihnnjkencnbfdbpdd** in the **Search by ID** text box and then select the **Select** button to add the extension.

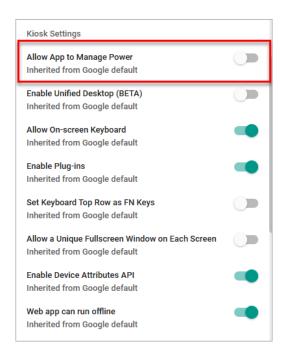


18. Once the extension has been added you need to enable **Allow enterprise challenge**. Under Certificate management enable **Allow enterprise challenge** setting by moving the slider to the right. When it is enabled, it will show as green.

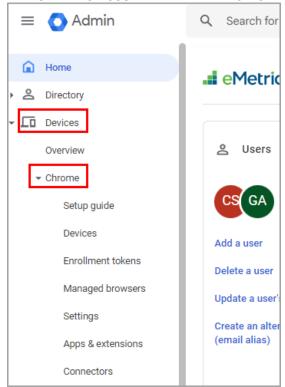




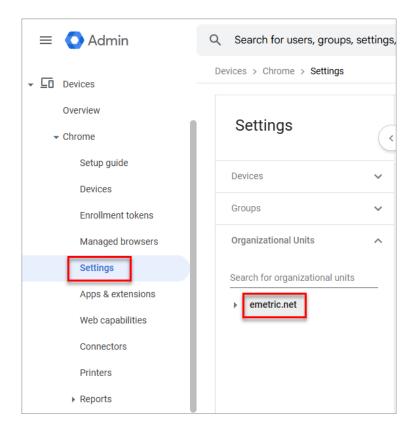
Important Note: Verify in Kiosk Settings that "Allow App to manage power" is disabled. To do this, click on **Devices, Apps & Extensions** and then select **Kiosks**. Click on the **MCAS** app name and check to make sure the setting **Allow app to manage power** is **disabled** (slider is moved to the left and not green).



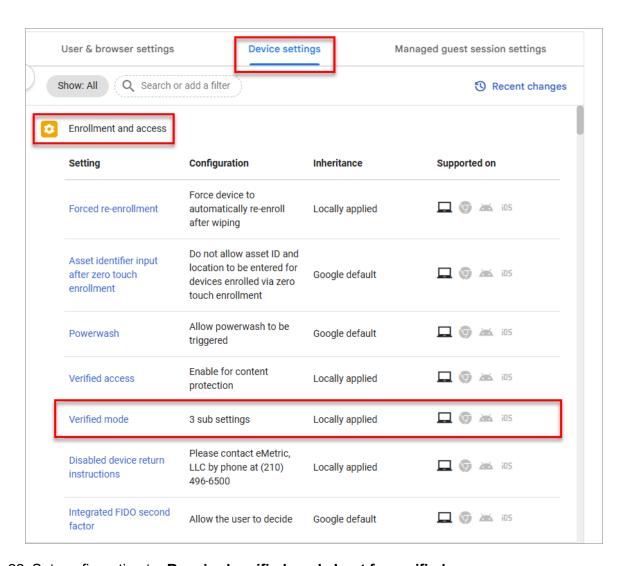
19. Next set up **Verified Mode**. Verified Mode ensures that only enrolled and trusted ChromeOS devices can run the ChromeOS PWA and your testing environment remains secure and authenticated. Go to **Devices** then select **Chrome**.



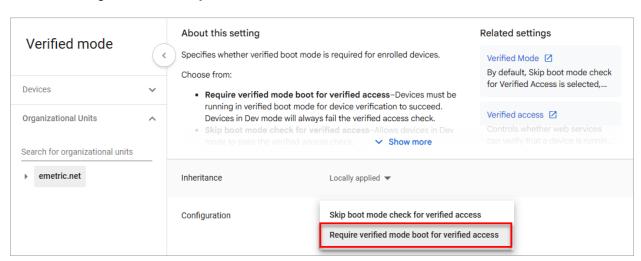
20. Click on **Settings** and then choose the relevant **Organizational Unit** where the MCAS web app is installed.



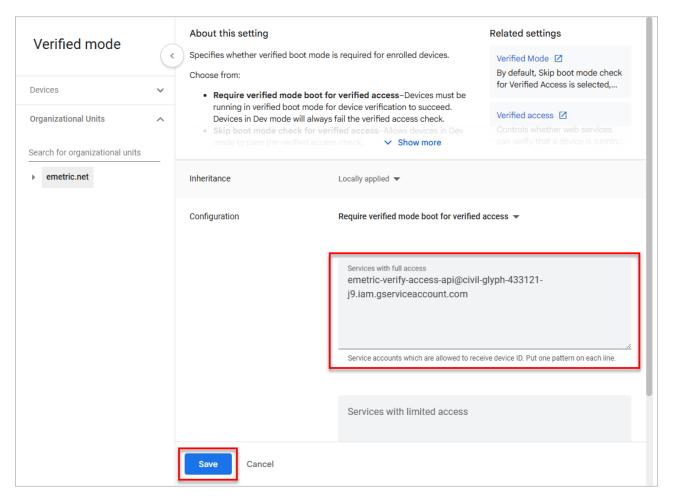
21. Select the **Device settings** tab. Under **Enrollment and access**, select **Verified mode**.



22. Set configuration to: Required verified mode boot for verified access.



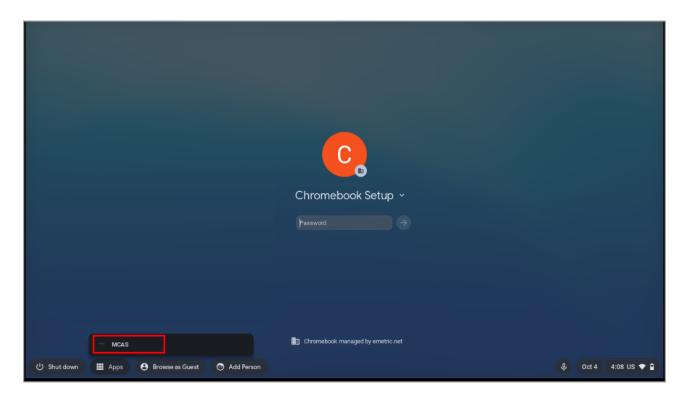
23. Under **Services with full access** add the verified access service account **emetric-verify-access-api@civil-glyph-433121-j9.iam.gserviceaccount.com** and then select **Save**.



When these steps are completed, the MCAS web app Kiosk will appear on all Chromebook devices that are in your domain.



Important Note: Students should not log in to Chromebooks using their Google accounts to take an operational test. When the Chromebooks are turned on, simply click the **Apps** link in the bottom row and select the **MCAS** app. The kiosk will open in full-screen mode.



For more information, see the following links:

- Use Chromebooks for Student Assessments
 Important Note: Read "Scenario 1: School sets up Chromebook™ to run as a Single App Kiosk running the exam app." Do not follow the instructions for Scenarios 2 and 3.
- Manage Device Settings, which provides general information for managed Chromebooks.
- 24. When you are ready to conduct Site Readiness for this configuration, see section V: <u>Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification</u>.

B. iPadOS Application Installation

Step 1: Set up your school testing environment

Review section II: Technology Guidelines and section III: Technology Setup in detail.

Step 2: Update or download the iTester App.

If the iTester app was installed on your devices in the previous school year, the app will need to be updated.

- If automatic updates are enabled, no action is required.
- If automatic updates are not enabled on the iPad, follow the steps below to update the iTester app.
 - 1. Open the **App Store** on the iPad
 - 2. Tap your **Apple ID icon** or your profile picture in the top right corner.
 - 3. Scroll down to see pending updates.

4. Tap **Update** next to the iTester app.

If the iTester app was not installed on your devices previously, follow the steps below to install the iTester application.

Download the iTester App from the Apple App Store

The iTester iPad application is a Single Instance application. Technology coordinators will select the MCAS during the initial setup of the app. If you do not already have the iTester app on your iPad, download it from the Apple App Store following the steps below.

1. Open the **App Store** on the iPad.



- 2. Search for iTester.
- 3. When you locate the iTester app, click **Get** to download it to the iPad.



- 4. Launch the iTester app.
- 5. Choose **MCAS** from the drop-down menu and then click **Go**. You will be directed to the student sign in screen for the MCAS Student Kiosk.



Note: If you select the wrong program in the **Choose your location** drop-down menu, select **Change Location** on the iTester login page.

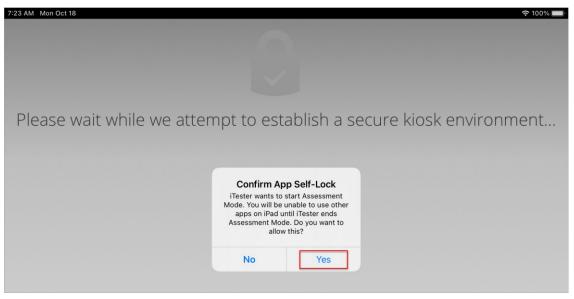
Not in your test location?

Change Location

6. When you are ready to complete Site Readiness for this configuration, see section V: Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification.

Automatic Assessment Configuration

A feature in iPadOS called Assessment Mode (AM) (formerly known as Automatic Assessment Configuration [AAC]) works with iTester to lock down an iPad for online testing. Technology coordinators do not need to do anything to set up AM. When a student launches the iTester App and logs in to a test, and then logs in to a test session, AM will automatically prompt the user to enter single app mode.



This action disables features such as auto correction, define, spell check, predictive keyboard and some keyboard shortcuts. For a complete list, visit this Apple Support page.

This feature helps ensure a secure test environment without requiring technology coordinators to use Mobile Device Manager Software or manually turn on guided access and change keyboard settings. AM is the preferred method of securing the iTester App and should be used in place of guided access. If guided access is on, it will override AM; therefore, guided access should be turned off to allow AM to function. No additional setup is necessary to enable AM.

C. Linux

Step 1: Set up your school technology

Review section II: <u>Technology Guidelines</u> and section III: <u>Technology Setup</u> in detail.

Step 2: Uninstall the MCAS Student Kiosk from the previous year.

The Linux kiosk is updated each year. If your devices have a previous version of the Linux MCAS Student Kiosk, it will need to be uninstalled before downloading and installing the latest version. To uninstall a previous version of the MCAS Student Kiosk for Linux follow the steps below.

If your devices do not have a previous year's kiosk installed, skip to step 3: Download the MCAS Student Kiosk.

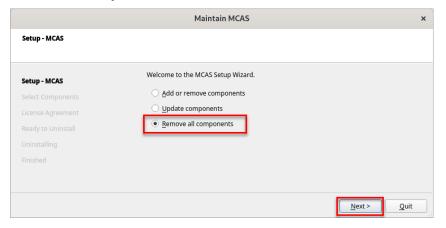
1. On the desktop of the device, select **Show Apps**.



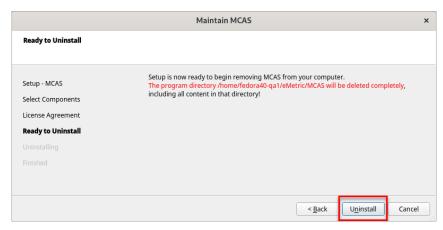
2. Select the icon Remove MCAS.



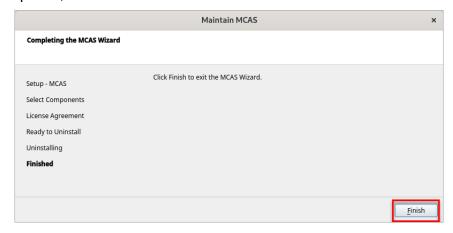
3. Select **Remove all components** and then select **Next**.



4. Select Uninstall.



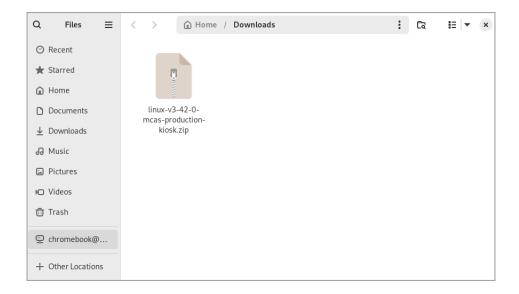
5. Once completed, select **Finish** to exit the MCAS Wizard.



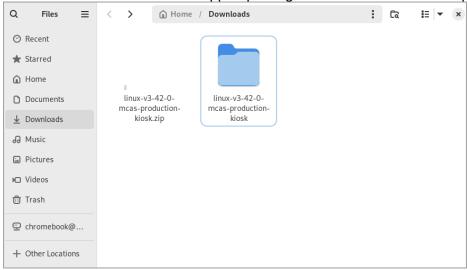
Follow the steps below to install the kiosk on all student testing devices running Linux.

Step 3: Download the MCAS Student Kiosk

- 1. Go to the MCAS Portal and log in with your username and password. If you need assistance logging in to the MCAS Portal, contact your school or district test coordinator.
- 2. On the portal home page, click Administration.
- 3. On the Administration home page, click **Student Kiosk for Linux**. The file will download to the "Downloads" folder.



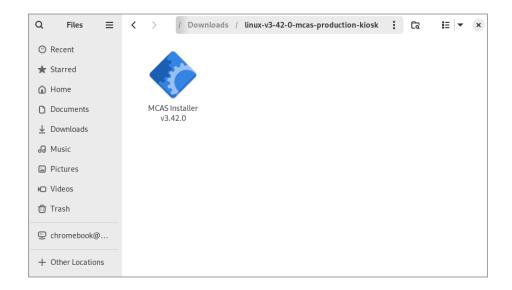
4. Extract the installation file from the zipped package to a location on the computer.



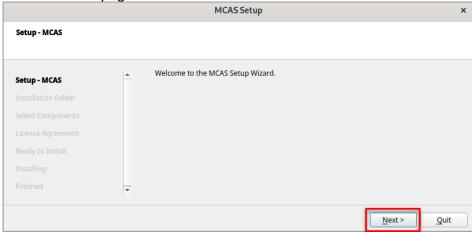
Step 4: Install the downloaded Kiosk

Upon completion of extraction of installation file:

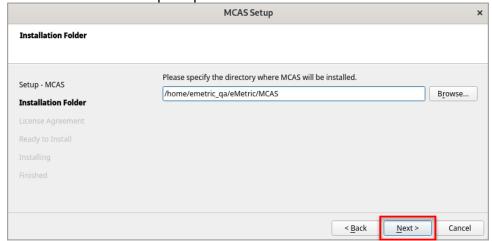
1. Navigate to the kiosk installer file and execute.



2. Read the Welcome page and click **Next** to continue.



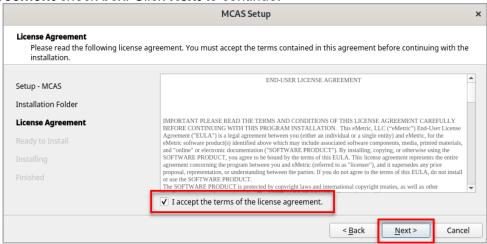
3. Use the default folder location for installation or click **Browse** and type a different installation location in the space provided. Then click **Next** to continue.



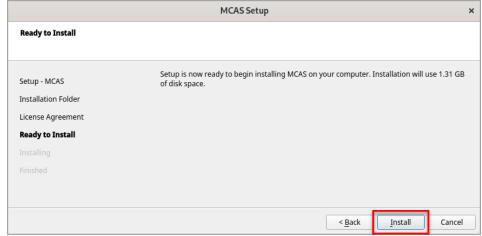
It is recommended that the kiosk is installed on the testing device instead of a network installation to avoid network connection issues (see section III part A, Network Connectivity).

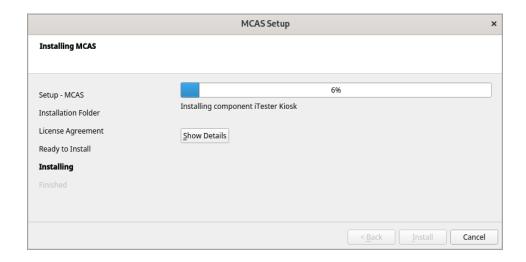
Important: In the event the student loses internet connectivity during testing, responses will be stored to this location. Additionally, this folder must have the appropriate permissions to allow test takers to write data.

4. Read the License Agreement and check the I accept the terms of the license agreement check box. Click **Next** to continue.

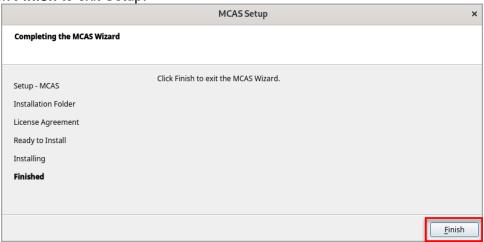


5. Click **Install**, a blue bar will be shown to show the progress as the kiosk is installed.





6. Click **Finish** to exit Setup.



7. When you are ready to complete Site Readiness for this configuration, see section V: Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification.

D. Mac OS

Step 1: Set up your school technology

Review section II: <u>Technology Guidelines</u> and section III: <u>Technology Setup</u> in detail.

Step 2: Download the MCAS Student Kiosk

The macOS kiosk is updated each year. If your devices have a previous version of the MCAS Student Kiosk, the kiosk does not need to be uninstalled. The new kiosk can be installed on top of the old version, by following the instructions below.

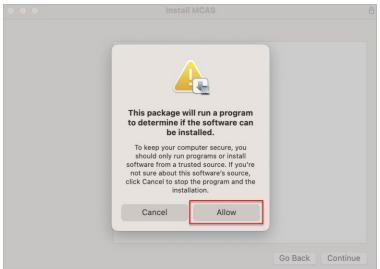
- 1. Go to the MCAS Portal and log in with your username and password. If you need assistance logging in to the MCAS Portal, contact your school or district test coordinator.
- 2. On the portal home page, click **Administration**.

3. On the Administration home page, click **Student Kiosk for Mac**. The kiosk will download to the device.

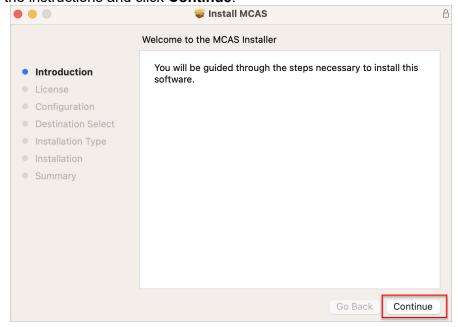
Step 3: Install the downloaded Kiosk

Upon completion of the download process:

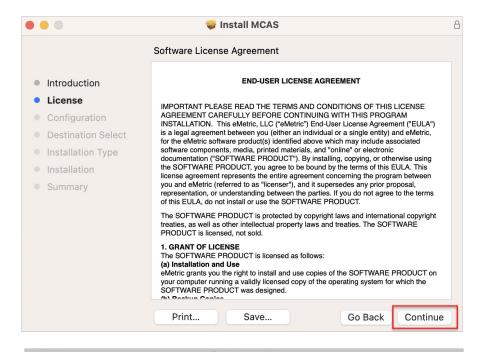
- 1. Navigate to the file location you specified during the File Save process.
- 2. The package will run a program to determine if the software can be installed. Click **Allow**.

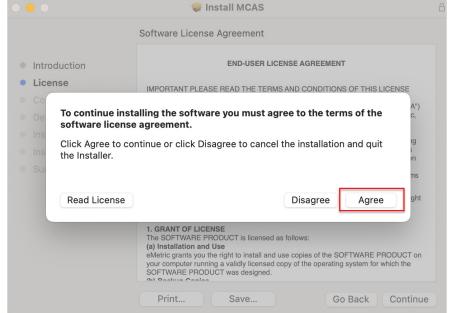


3. Read the instructions and click Continue.



4. Read the Software License Agreement and then click Continue and then Agree.





5. Indicate where you would like to store student responses.

Important: In the event the student loses internet connectivity during testing, responses will be stored to this location. Additionally, this folder must have the appropriate read/write permissions to allow test takers to write data to this location.

Choose from the following two options:

User's Home Directory:

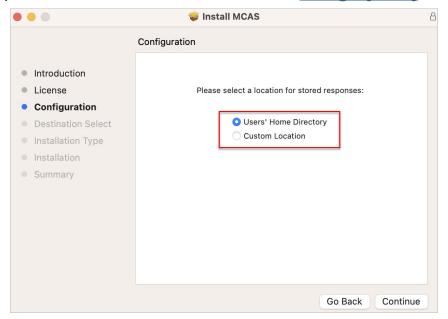
During kiosk installation, if you choose the default option to store the stored response files in the user profile, these files will have names similar to the format below:

~ /Library/Application Support/eMetric/MCAS/Storage/iTesterSync_AD849G-DA56-19F3-73K39823DJS3

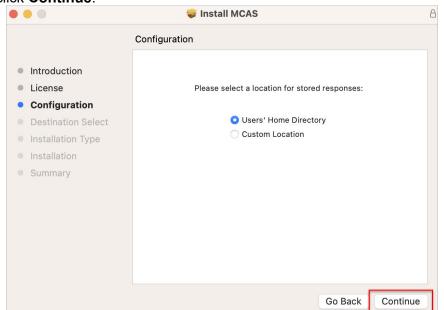
Custom location:

If you select **Save in the following directory**, you must manually enter the alternate path.

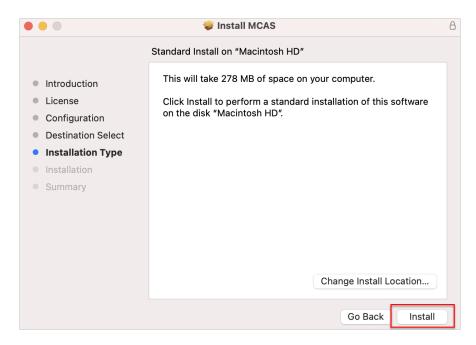
For more information on selecting a location for stored responses or retrieving stored responses, contact the MCAS Service Center at mcas@cognia.org or 800-737-5103.



6. Then click Continue.

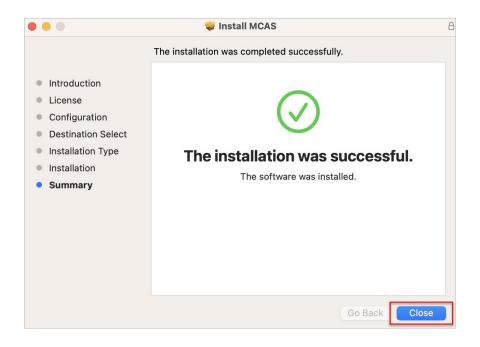


7. Verify installation type and click **Install**. You may be required to enter your admin password.



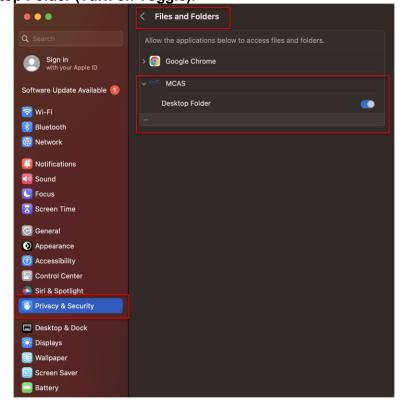


8. When the installation is complete, click **Close**.



9. For enhanced security measures, grant the testing application access to **Desktop Folder**. To grant access follow the path below:

Click System Settings > Privacy and Security > Files and Folder > MCAS > Desktop Folder (Turn on Toggle).



10. If you are using a newer system running MacOS 15.0 or greater with an M2 processor chip you will need to install Rosetta. This can be accomplished by launching the MCAS Student Kiosk for the first time.

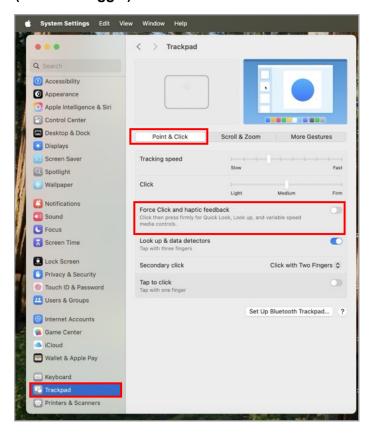
After launching the MCAS Student Kiosk you will be prompted:

To open "MCAS," you need to install Rosetta. Do you want to install it now? Select **Install**.

Note: Rosetta enables Intel-based features to run on Apple silicon Macs. Reopening applications after installation is required to start using Rosetta.

11. Force Click will need to be disabled for MacBooks with Force Touch trackpads. By disabling Force Click, the trackpad will function as normal and will only disable the secondary press features, not disable the trackpad itself. To disable, follow the path below:

Click System Settings > Trackpad > Point & Click > Force Click and haptic feedback (Turn off Toggle).



Note: This setting will only be available if the MacBook has a Force Touch trackpad.

12. When you are ready to complete Site Readiness for this configuration, see section V: Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification.

Note: Students should avoid using **Command** (\Re) + **Q** to exit the application. Using this shortcut to exit the application can sometimes trigger an unexpected error. This is a system-wide feature and not specific to our application. Instead, always use the in-app Exit button or logout options provided in the interface.

E. Windows OS

Step 1: Set up your school technology

Review section II: Technology Guidelines and section III: Technology Setup in detail.

Step 2: Download the MCAS Student Kiosk

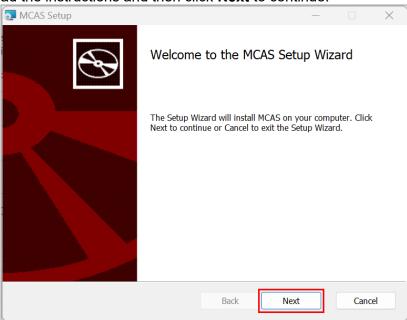
The Windows kiosk is updated each year. If your devices have a previous version of the MCAS Student Kiosk, the kiosk does not need to be uninstalled. The new kiosk can be installed on top of the old version by following the steps below.

- 1. Go to the MCAS Portal and log in with your username and password. If you need assistance logging in to the MCAS Portal, contact your school or district test coordinator.
- 2. On the portal home page, click **Administration**.
- 3. Click Student Kiosk for Windows to download the MCAS Student Kiosk to the device.

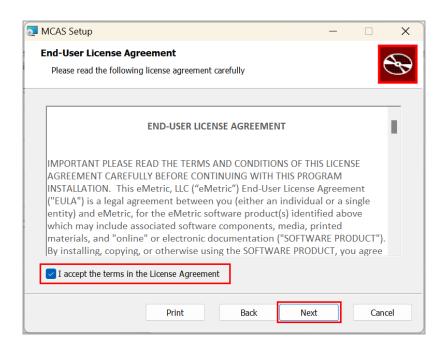
Step 3: Install the downloaded Kiosk

The MCAS Student Kiosk for Windows can be installed on the school network or on each individual student testing device. It is recommended that the kiosk is installed on each individual device to avoid network connection issues. For installing on each individual student testing device follow the steps below, or follow the steps for Windows MSI Package Scripted Installation, or follow the steps for Windows MSI Package Installation Via Group Policy.

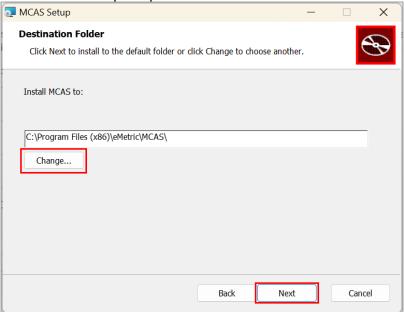
1. Click the installation file in the Downloads folder on the device. The Setup Wizard will open. Read the instructions and then click **Next** to continue.



2. Read the End-User License Agreement and check the I accept the terms in the License Agreement check box. Click **Next** to continue.



3. Use the default folder location for installation or click **Change** and type a different installation location in the space provided. Then click **Next** to continue.

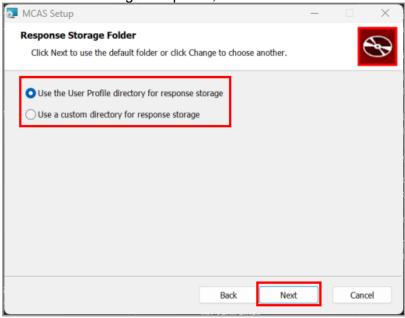


Note: You can choose to install the kiosk in a shared network folder or a local folder on the student testing device. It is recommended that the kiosk is installed on the individual student testing device instead of a network installation to avoid network connection issues (see section III, part A: Network Connectivity).

4. Select the directory to store student responses.

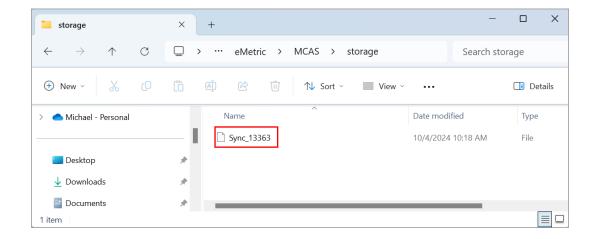
Important: In the event the student loses internet connectivity during testing, responses will be stored to this location. Additionally, this folder must have the appropriate permissions to allow test takers to write data.

Choose from the following two options, then click Next.



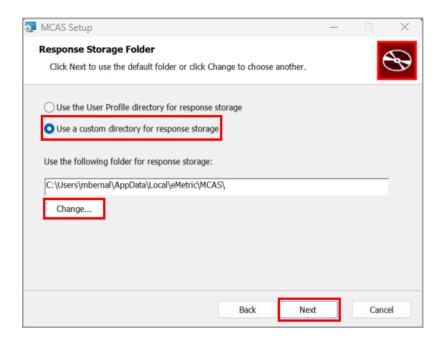
Use the User Profile directory for response storage:

During kiosk installation, if you choose the default option to store the stored response files in the user profile, these files will have names like this format:

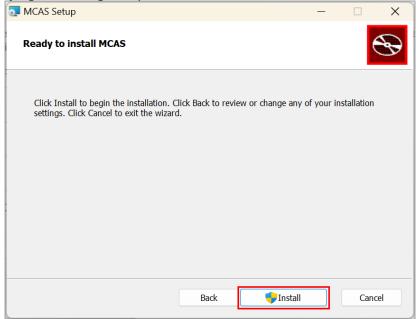


• Use a custom directory for response storage:

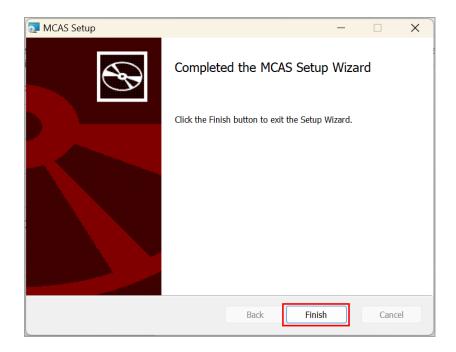
If you select **Save in the following directory**, you must manually enter the alternate path.



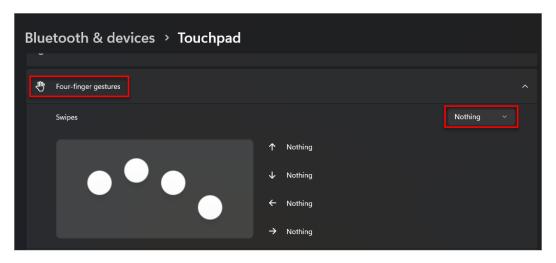
5. After verifying the storage response location, click Install.



6. Click **Finish** to complete the installation.



7. For Windows devices with touchpads, Four-finger gestures for swiping will need to be disabled. To disable go to **Settings > Bluetooth & devices > Touchpad**. Then locate Four-finger gestures and expand the section. Next, change the drop-down menu for Swipes to **Nothing**.



8. When you are ready to complete Site Readiness for this configuration, see section V: Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification.

Windows MSI Package Scripted Installation

Network administrators can install the MCAS Student Kiosk via an installation script to be executed by an Admin account on the machine. The script can be written to run without any human interaction (quiet switch) and to install in the default directory (C:\Program Files) or any target directory of choice. Uninstalling the client can also be scripted.

Below are generic scripts that can be used for installation and uninstallation.

Script Examples

- <Source> = Complete path to the MCAS Student Kiosk MSI installation file, including .msi installation file name. Example: C:\Downloads\MCAS.msi
- <Target> = Complete path to the location where kiosk should be installed other than the default location (C:\Program Files). Example: C:\ MCAS\Installation Dir
- <APPDATALOCATION> = Complete path to the location for storing the cache and encrypted student responses created due to network interruptions. Example: D:\Cache.
 Note: Ensure that this location is excluded from system restore software.

Installation Script

msiexec /I "<Source>" /quiet INSTALLDIR="<Target>"
ITESTERAPPDATALOCATION="<APPDATALOCATION>" INSTALLLEVEL=2

Example: msiexec /I "C:\Downloads\MCAS.msi" /quiet INSTALLDIR="C:\ MCAS" ITESTERAPPDATALOCATION="D:\Cache" INSTALLLEVEL=2

Warning: If you do not specify ITESTERAPPDATALOCATION, then the Local Application Data folder located in the User Profile of the actively logged-in user will be used by default. If you do not specify INSTALLLEVEL=2, then the configuration required for setting the <a href="https://example.com/application-required-to-setting-the-setting-th-

Uninstallation Script

msiexec /X "<Source>" /quiet

Example: msiexec /X "C:\Downloads\MCAS.msi" /quiet

Windows MSI Package Installation Via Group Policy

Network administrators can use Microsoft Active Directory Group Policy to distribute the MCAS Student Kiosk MSI package to all client computers.

Follow the step-by-step instructions described in Microsoft's Knowledge Base article.

Note: Default installation locations will be used when using Group Policy to distribute the MCAS Student Kiosk. This option will also not allow systematically specifying a network location for caching and storing encrypted student responses created due to network interruptions. The local Application Data folder located in the User Profile of the actively logged-in user will be used by default.

Windows Network Kiosk Installation

To install the MCAS Student Kiosk on a school network:

- 1. Complete the local kiosk installation listed above on the machine that will host the application.
- 2. Configure the stored response location to network share or leave as default during installation.
- 3. On the student testing devices, create a shortcut to the application on the network. The shortcut created should point to MCAS.exe.
- 4. Ensure that users have read/write/modify access to stored response directory configured in Step 3.

V. Site Readiness Testing and Site Certification

A. Purpose

The MCAS Portal includes a Site Readiness tool for schools and districts to assess their readiness for online testing via the MCAS Student Kiosk and to identify any potential technology-related issues before testing begins to ensure a smooth testing experience. The Site Readiness tool is used to verify that testing devices meet the minimum requirements and have been properly configured.

The Site Readiness tool includes the **System Set-Up Test** and the **Student Interface Test**.

- The **System Set-Up Test** tests bandwidth, connectivity, screen resolution, and the text-to-speech function.
- The Student Interface Test provides sample test questions to determine whether the
 device is capable of correctly displaying and navigating test content in the MCAS
 Student Kiosk. The Student Interface Test also allows technology coordinators to test
 the student tools, including the Line Reader, Text Highlighter, and Notepad, to confirm
 they are functioning properly.

To administer the Site Readiness test, the technology coordinator launches the MCAS Student Kiosk on each device configuration (i.e., device type and operating system) being used for testing at that site and then uses the Site Readiness login for the assigned school to run the test. Then, the technology coordinator certifies the site (school) in the MCAS Portal to indicate to the school and district test coordinators that the site's technology is ready for testing.

Note: The Site Readiness test must be conducted using the secure MCAS Student Kiosk. The test does not need to be conducted on the browsers used for practice tests.

B. Using the Site Readiness Tool

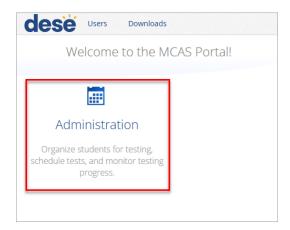
It is crucial that the Site Readiness tool is run on **every** device type or device configuration that will be used for testing. The results for each device tested will be captured and displayed on the Site Readiness Details page within the MCAS Portal.

Note: Starting with iPadOS 13, Apple made a change with the user agent for iPadOS. Due to this change, iPads do not populate in the Site Readiness tab of the MCAS Portal. If you are an iPad school or district, we recommend running the Site Readiness tool on a few iPads to ensure they pass the System Set-Up and Student Interface tests without issues and recommend an alternative method of communicating this information to test coordinators.

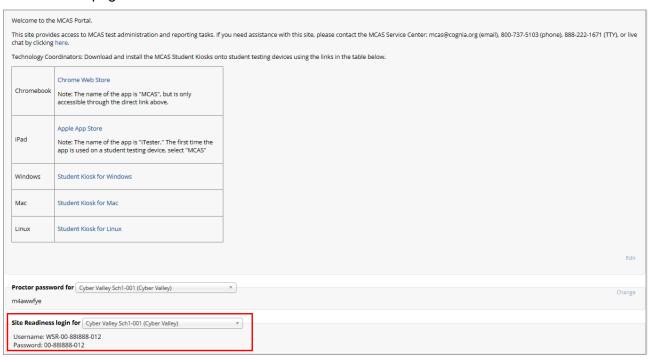
After reviewing the <u>Technology Guidelines</u> and installing the MCAS Student Kiosk, follow the instructions below.

Step 1: Locate the Site Readiness credentials in the MCAS Portal

- 1. Log in to the MCAS Portal with your username and password.
- 2. On the Portal home page, click **Administration**.



3. The Site Readiness account information appears at the bottom of the Administration home page.

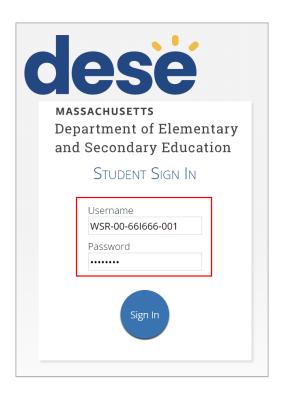


4. Make a note of the username and password for the school, which you will use to log in to the MCAS Student Kiosk.

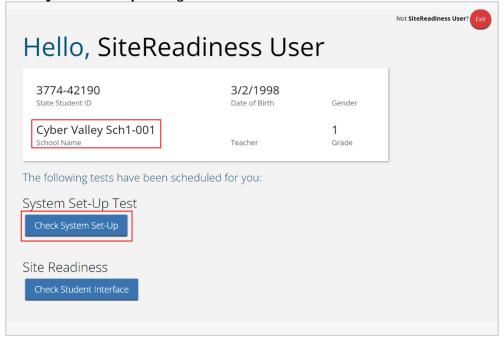
Step 2: Conduct Site Readiness on every device configuration

- 1. Launch the MCAS Student Kiosk on the device.
- 2. Log in to the MCAS Student Kiosk with the Site Readiness username and password provided for the school (shown above).

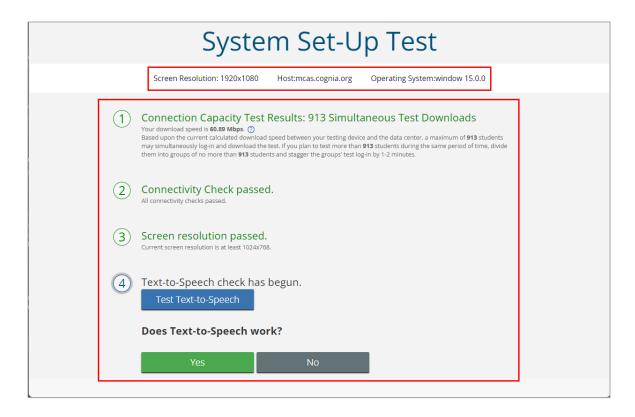
Important Note: Use the Site Readiness login credentials exclusively for the school only, and do not use the credentials for any other purposes. Do not use the Site Readiness credentials for any other school.



3. Verify your school's name at the top of the page. Under **System Set-Up Test**, click **Check System Set-Up** to begin the test.



The screen resolution, host URL (<u>mcas.cognia.org</u>), and operating system for the device are listed at the top of the System Set-Up Test page. The System Set-Up Test consists of four parts: the Connection Capacity Test, the Connectivity Check, the Screen resolution check, and the Text-to-Speech check. The results of each test appear as soon as it is completed.



4. The **Connection Capacity Test** evaluates your site's capacity for simultaneous test downloads. It provides the current download speed between the testing device and the testing servers (data center), and, based on that speed, it provides the maximum number of students that may simultaneously log in and download a test session.

If you plan to test more students concurrently than the recommended number of simultaneous test downloads, it is recommended that you divide the students into groups no greater than the number of recommended simultaneous test downloads and stagger each group's test log in by 1–2 minutes. This will reduce the likelihood of interruption during sign in.

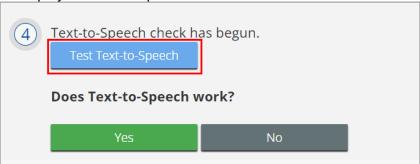
- 5. The **Connectivity Check** is designed to ensure the testing device has access to both the kiosk's local storage folder, where student responses will be saved if the test device loses internet connectivity, and the testing servers.
 - If the Connectivity Check fails with the following message:

"The connectivity check failed. Please check your read and write permissions to the storage folders and try again or contact Support for further assistance. Error Code: 6004 – StorageWriteFail"

This means that the MCAS Student Kiosk does not have the proper permissions for the storage folder. The kiosk requires read, write, and modify permissions on Windows and Read & Write on Mac.

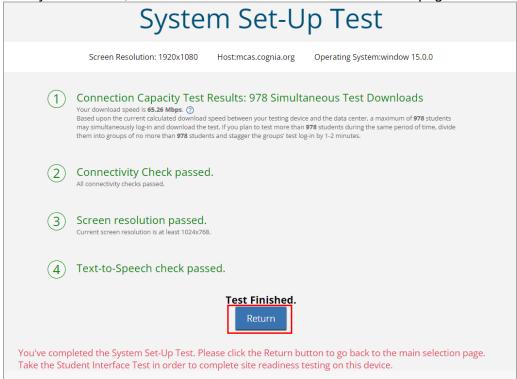
- If the test fails for any reason other than "Error Code:6004 StorageWriteFail," contact the MCAS Service Center.
- 6. The **Screen resolution test** will ensure that the testing device meets the required screen size and resolution for an optimal testing experience. If this test fails, adjust the screen resolution of the device

7. The **Text-to-Speech test** will ensure that this accommodation is operating as expected for students who have this accommodation. In the Text-to-Speech field, click **Test Text-to-Speech** to play a voice sample.



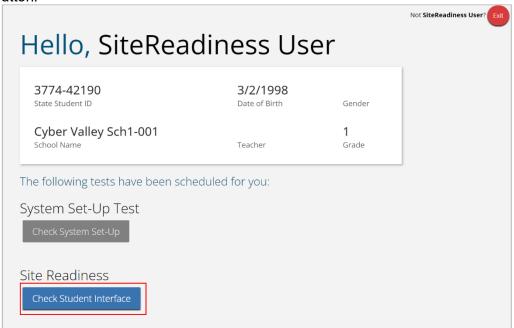
- If you can hear the voice sample, click Yes.
- If you cannot hear the voice sample, click No, and fix your audio connection. You
 will need to verify that there is a voice package installed on your machine, that
 there is an audio playback device connected to the testing device (e.g., internal
 speakers, external speakers, headphones), the volume is not muted and is
 audible, and that the desired audio playback device is set as the default device.

8. When you are done, click Return to return to the Site Readiness page.

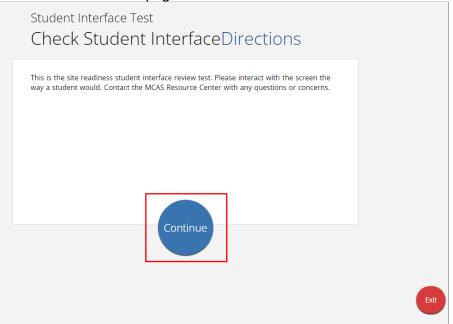


- If all the system checks are successful, you are ready to begin the next Site Readiness test.
- If one or more system checks fail, adjust your configuration as needed and re-run the System Set-Up test.

9. When the System Set-Up test is completed, click the blue **Check Student Interface** button.



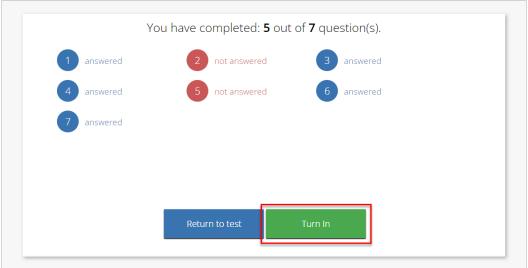
10. Read the instructions on the page and then click **Continue**.



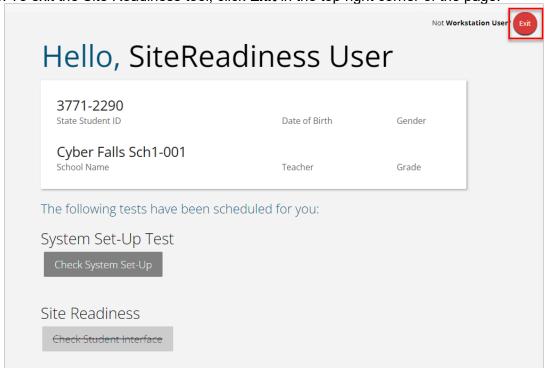
11. Confirm that you can effectively respond to a few questions. Click on and try out a few student tools, such as the Notepad and Line Reader, to make sure you can use them. To activate a tool, click on the tool in the tool bar and use it in the test interface. On the constructed response question, ensure you can type in the response box.

Note: Certain tools, accessibility features, and accommodations will be available in the Student Kiosk for operational testing but will not be available in Site Readiness. See Appendix A for additional information.

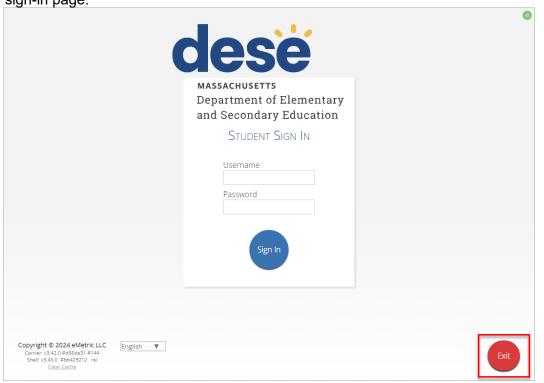
- 12. On the last test question page, click **Finish**.
- 13. On the Test Review page, click **Turn In** to submit your test.



- 14. To confirm, click **Turn In** again. You should return to the Site Readiness page where the test session is grayed out.
- 15. To exit the Site Readiness tool, click **Exit** in the top right corner of the page.



16. To close the MCAS Student Kiosk, click **Exit** at the bottom right corner of the student sign-in page.



If you have questions about the Site Readiness tool, contact the MCAS Service Center.

C. Site Certification

After all device configurations for your school have successfully completed Site Readiness, the technology coordinator must certify the site for testing.

- 1. Log in to the MCAS Portal with your username and password.
- 2. Click Administration.
- 3. Click Site Readiness at the top of the page.

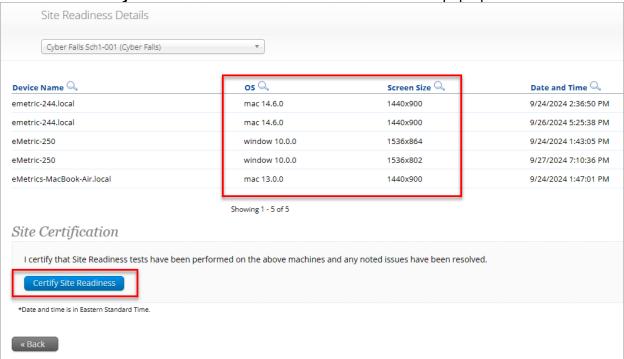


 On the Site Readiness page, locate the school to be certified, and then click View Details.

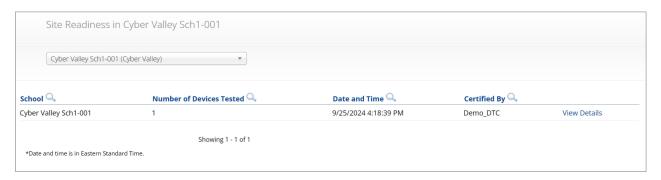


On the Site Readiness Details page, verify that all the devices or device configurations for this location have successfully run the Site Readiness tool and meet the technology requirements.

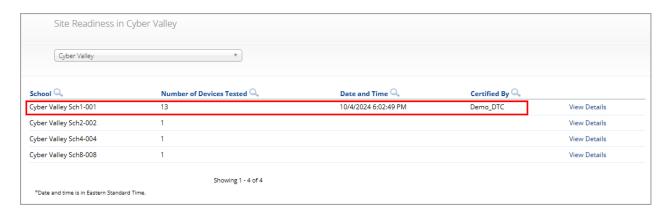
6. Click Certify Site Readiness and click Yes to confirm in the pop-up window.



7. The **Site Certification** section updates with the date and time when the site was certified and the username of the user who certified the site for testing.



District and school test coordinators can also view when the site was certified and who certified the site on the Site Readiness tab without having to click into the Site Readiness Details.



This certification indicates to the district or school test coordinator that the technology coordinator has tested the devices at the site and ensured they are operating as expected and meet the technology requirements, acknowledging that the site is ready for testing. Once complete, technology coordinators should inform their school test coordinators.

Appendix A: Student Tools, Accessibility Features, and Accommodations Unavailable for Site Readiness

The following tools, accessibility features, and accommodations will be available in the MCAS Student Kiosk for operational testing but will not be available in Site Readiness.

- Ruler
- ASL video edition for grade 10 math and June high school science (A6.2)
- Calculator (SA4)
- Compatible assistive technology

Appendix B: MCAS Student Kiosk Error Message Guidance for Technology Staff

This appendix lists potential error messages that could occur when testing with the MCAS Student Kiosk. With each error message, guidance and troubleshooting steps are provided.

Internet Connectivity

If internet connection is lost during MCAS testing, students are able to continue testing in the MCAS Student Kiosk, but may receive one of the following error messages, as described below. Technology coordinators should complete the steps listed to ensure that all student responses are submitted for scoring. Please contact the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103 with any questions.

Error Message	What does it mean?	Steps for Technology Staff
Please raise your hand and notify your proctor: Your response is not able to be stored. To avoid losing your response, your test cannot be continued until connection to the storage location is reestablished.	The access to the storage location was lost after the student began testing due to loss of network connectivity.	 Click Retry Now. If the connection to the storage location is reestablished, the MCAS Student Kiosk will return to the screen the student was on. If after several attempts to retry, the connection is not restored, contact the MCAS Service Center to confirm the student responses were received up to when the student received this error. The Service Center will confirm whether all responses have been captured and whether the student can move to a new device. Once it has been confirmed that all responses have been captured up to the error message, the student can then be moved to a different device if needed. The student will then be able to log in and continue testing where they left off.
Please raise your hand and notify your proctor. A connection to the network could not be established. Your test has been saved offline.	Internet connectivity was lost after the student began testing and was not restored by the time the student clicked Turn in Test . The student's responses will be saved to the local folder, which should have been	 Do not move the student to a different device. The test administrator should click Send Responses. The page will refresh after about 10 seconds. If the connection is restored, the responses will be uploaded, and test will be submitted. If the connection is not restored, the Send Responses button will reappear.

Error Message	What does it mean?	Steps for Technology Staff
3. The offline student responses on this machine could not be processed. Please contact Support to continue. (ErrorCode:1003)	configured when the MCAS Student Kiosk was initially installed. This could be due to a drop in internet while uploading stored responses. The kiosk will not be able to launch until this is resolved.	 The test administrator then must enter the proctor password, acknowledging the message to ensure the kiosk will be relaunched. Once the internet connection is restored, relaunch the kiosk on the device that the student tested on. When launched, the responses that were stored on the local device will be uploaded for scoring. If the student responses are captured, their status will update from In Progress to Finished in the MCAS Portal. If there is a delay in the receipt of student responses, or if the student logs into a different device prior to the original device uploading the responses, the test status will remain In Progress. Click Refresh. This will attempt to upload the responses again. If successful, the student will be brought to the login page. If unsuccessful, the page will not change. Schools have the option to export responses. Cognia strongly recommends this process be completed by the technology coordinator or school test coordinator. Click Export Responses. The user will need to save the responses locally. When storing responses locally on the device, it is very important to note the exact location where the file is being stored. Once exported, the coordinator should exit the kiosk, log in to the Chromebook and open File explorer. Contact the MCAS Service Center for next steps on what to do with these exported files to ensure the responses are captured for scoring. After Cognia confirms that the responses have been captured, delete the responses saved locally.

Launching the Kiosk

The error messages described below could occur when launching the MCAS Student Kiosk.

Error Message	What does it mean?	Steps for Technology Staff
No internet connection found.	There is no internet connection on the device and the kiosk cannot launch.	 Click Try again. If the internet connection has been reestablished, the MCAS Student Kiosk will be launched. If you receive the error message again, establish an internet connection and click Try again to launch the MCAS Student Kiosk. If you are unable to establish an internet connection, click Exit to exit the application. Next step would be to establish an internet connection before launching the kiosk again.
Please exit the kiosk and install the latest version.	The kiosk being launched on the testing device is an older version.	 Select Exit, to close out of the kiosk. If the device is Windows, macOS or Linux, download and install the latest version of the MCAS Student Kiosk available in the MCAS Portal or the MCAS Resource Center. For iPadOS verify the iTester app is up to date and for ChromeOS verify that the MCAS App is up to date.
3. A new version of the app is available. Please update.	There was an update to the kiosk shell that was released while the kiosk was left open or already launched on the student testing device.	Click Update . The kiosk will update to the latest version, and your student will be able to log in.

During a Test

The error messages describe below could occur while your student is logged into a test. These error messages are in addition to the internet connectivity error messages described earlier in the document.

Error Message	What does it mean?	Steps for Technology Staff
Please raise your hand; your test session has timed out.	The student timed out of their test session due to inactivity, meaning they have been inactive in the test for 60 minutes.	 Click Exit. This will exit the student out of the kiosk. When the student is ready to continue testing, they will log back into the kiosk and select the session they wish to continue and they will be prompted for a proctor password. Proctor will enter the password and the student will resume testing where they left off. Any questions that the student responded to prior to their session timing out will be locked.
There is a problem because somebody else has logged into your test session. You have been logged out for security reasons.	The student has logged in to their test session on two separate devices or someone else has logged into the MCAS Student Kiosk with the same credentials.	 Click Exit. This will exit the student out of the kiosk. Have the student log back into their test, verify the student's test resumes where they left off and have them continue testing. If the student's test does not resume where they left off, contact the MCAS Service Center.

Screen Freezing Issues

The following screen freezing issues could occur while your student is logged into a test using the MCAS Student Kiosk. The issues described below will not show an error message in the kiosk.

Error	Steps for Technology Staff
The MCAS Student Kiosk becomes unresponsive, frozen, or stops working as expected. For example, a student cannot drag a response to a goal box.	 Click Pause/Exit and then select Exit Test. From the MCAS Student Kiosk login screen, click Clear Cache in the lower right-hand corner. You will be asked "Are you sure?". Click Yes, and the kiosk will close and then launch. Have the student log back into their test, verify that the kiosk is responding, and then have the student resume testing.

Error	Steps for Technology Staff
The student cannot type in the constructed response box. The response box is frozen or non-responsive.	 Check if the constructed response box has a character or word counter and verify if the student has reached the maximum characters or words allowed. If they have, they will not be able to type in the constructed response box. If there is a limit and they have not reached it, click Pause/Exit and then select Exit Test. From the MCAS Student Kiosk login screen, click Clear Cache in the lower right-hand corner. You will be asked "Are you sure?". Click Yes, and the kiosk will close and then launch. Have the student log back into their test, verify that they can type in the constructed response box and have the student resume testing. If the response box is still not responsive contact the MCAS Service Center.