

Office Hours for November High School ELA and Math Tests

The Office of Student Assessment Services

September 23, 2026

Presenters

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Logistics for This Session

- Use the Q&A feature to ask a question.
 - We will answer some questions aloud at specified times during this training session, and we will email the Q&A afterwards.
 - Use the thumbs-up icon to “upvote” someone else’s question.
 - Email student-specific questions to mcas@mass.gov instead of asking here.
- Closed captioning has been enabled for participants who need it.
- This session is being interpreted into ASL. Our interpreting team will be onscreen with the presenters.
- Please be advised that DESE does not authorize attendees to record or to use AI transcription tools during the meeting and DESE does not endorse any unauthorized transcripts created by third parties of its meetings.

Slides for This Session

- Slides were emailed to participants before this session from MCASEvents@cognia.org.
- Slides are now being posted in the chat.
 - If you cannot access the slides in the chat, ask in the Q&A.
- After the session, we will send the slides again to participants, and they will be posted in the MCAS Resource Center along with the recording.

Today's Agenda

1. General Information for the November 2026 High School MCAS Tests
2. Student Registration
3. Resources
4. Q&A and Demonstrations
5. Additional Resources and Next Steps

1. General Information for the November 2026 High School MCAS Tests

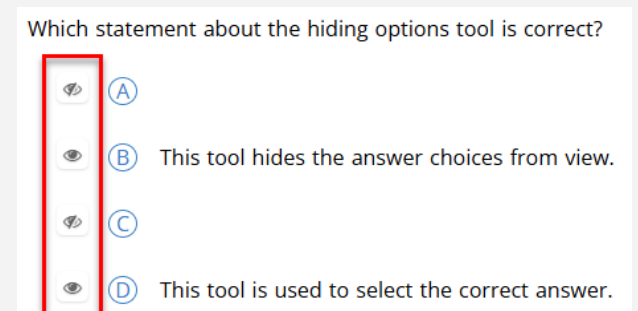
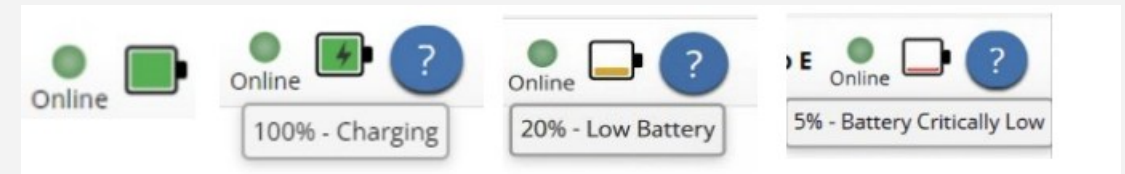
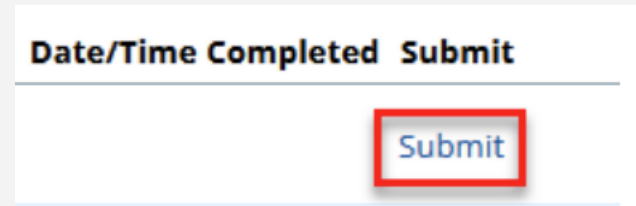
Fall 2026 Updates: MCAS Portal and Student Kiosk

- MCAS Portal Updates

- When a student transfers between organizations in the MCAS Portal through the Enrollment Transfer feature, their test sessions will now automatically transfer with them to the new organization.
- School and district test coordinators will be able to move tests from “In Progress” to “Finished” status in the MCAS Portal, if the student does not correctly submit their test at the end of testing.

- MCAS Student Kiosk Updates

- Students will now see battery level status in the top right of their screen.
- “Hide all” button no longer available.



Fall 2026 Updates: MCAS Portal and Student Kiosk (continued)

- Updated MCAS Student Kiosk now available for download
- Refer to the [Updates to the MCAS Student Kiosk and MCAS Portal](#) document for additional information.
- More information will be shared during the upcoming [Overview of MCAS Administration Tasks webinars](#).

Tasks to Complete Once Annually for MCAS Testing

Staff Responsible	Task	Timeframe
District and school test coordinators	Update and edit MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site user accounts For detailed steps, refer to Part II of the Guide to the MCAS Portal: MCAS Portal User Management.	<i>Recommended deadlines:</i> • September 2026: Deactivate accounts of all staff who will not be involved with MCAS testing in 2026–27. • September 2026: Update/edit test coordinator, principal, and technology coordinator accounts • At least three weeks prior to test administration: (to update/edit test administrator accounts)
Technology coordinators	Download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosk on student testing devices. Conduct Site Readiness to ensure devices and network are configured for testing. For detailed steps, refer to the MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide.	<i>Available:</i> September 14 <i>Recommended deadline:</i> • At least two months prior to testing

November High School Administration Deadlines – Before Testing

Tasks	Dates
Complete the pre-administration student registration process	September 21–October 2
Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT	October 5–November 3
Create and assign students to “classes” in the MCAS Portal for CBT	<i>Recommended deadline:</i> October 21
Receive manuals and PBT materials (PBT materials are available as an accommodation.)	October 28 <i>(PDFs expected to be posted to the DESE website by early to mid-October)</i>
“Schedule” classes in the MCAS Portal for CBT	<i>ELA:</i> October 28–November 3 <i>Math:</i> November 3–9
If necessary, order additional manuals and PBT materials, and report packing discrepancies for PBT shipments	<i>ELA:</i> October 28–November 2 <i>Math:</i> October 28–November 6

November High School Administration Deadlines – Test Administration

Administration	Dates
ELA Testing Window	November 4–17 <i>Recommended dates:</i>
• ELA Session 1	November 4
• ELA Session 2	November 5
Mathematics Testing Window	November 10–17 <i>Recommended dates:</i>
• Mathematics Session 1	November 10
• Mathematics Session 2	November 12

Note: The MCAS Student Kiosk **will not be available** on Tuesday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

November High School Administration Deadlines – After Testing

Tasks	Dates
Deadline to update student registration information, if necessary	November 17
Deadline to complete the PCPA (one PCPA for both subject areas)	November 17
(PBT only) Pre-scheduled UPS pickup	November 18

Refer to the [Statewide Testing Schedule](#) and the [MCAS Pre-Administration Guide](#) for additional information.

2. Student Registration

November Student Registration Deadlines

- Initial Student Registration Window: **September 21–October 2**
 - Important in order to receive manuals for CBT and PBT, and PBT materials and student labels
- Extended pre-administration student registration window for CBT: **October 5–November 3**
 - Schools will not receive an automatic shipment of PBT materials or manuals for students registered after October 2; schools will need to manually place an additional materials order through the [MCAS Service Center website](#).

Confirm your access to the MCAS Portal and DESE Security Portal

- Principals and school test coordinators will retrieve the .CSV file for November Student Registration from the MCAS 2026 data folder in the [DESE Security Portal](#), and import it into the [MCAS Portal](#) by the Student Registration deadline.
- If you are not able to access the [DESE Security Portal](#), contact your [District Directory Administrator](#).
- If you are not able to access your [MCAS Portal](#) account, are not able to access your school or district, or are new and need an account, users may request support as follows:

Role	Who to contact for support
Test administrators and school-level technology coordinators	Their principal or school test coordinator
Principals, school test coordinators, and district-level technology coordinators	Their district test coordinator
District test coordinators	MCAS Service Center

November High School MCAS Student Registration Resources

MCAS Resource Center

- Guide to the MCAS Portal, Part III: Student Registration
- Student Registration Data Definitions
- Student Registration Template

November High School MCAS Participation Guidelines

Accessibility and Accommodations Manual (updated manual will be posted soon)

- Refer to Appendix A for a crosswalk of accessibility features and accommodations and their corresponding columns in the Student Registration file.

November High School MCAS Participation

- DESE offers high school tests in ELA and Mathematics in November to students who are attempting to qualify for the [John and Abigail Adams Scholarship](#), the [Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award](#), and/or the [Seal of Biliteracy](#).
- **Students do not need to take November MCAS high school tests for any other reasons than those listed above.** Students are not required to take the tests if they were absent during grade 10 testing in spring 2026 (medically documented or not) or if they are new to Massachusetts in grade 11 or 12 and have never taken MCAS tests.

November High School MCAS Participation FAQ

Q: Are grade 11 and 12 students required to participate in the November 2026 MCAS high school tests if they have not yet participated in ELA and/or Mathematics MCAS testing?

A: No. Students are not required to participate.

Students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible to participate if they would like to qualify for the [Adams Scholarship](#), the [Koplik Certificate of Mastery](#), and the [Seal of Biliteracy](#) (these are the ***only purposes for participation***).

November High School MCAS Participation FAQ (continued 1)

Q: Can grade 11 and 12 students participate in the spring 2027 grade 10 ELA and Math tests *instead of* November high school MCAS tests?

A: Students in grade 11 or 12 who were reported as grade 9 students in the prior school year **are required to participate** in spring 2027 grade 10 ELA and Mathematics testing for accountability purposes. All other grades 11 and 12 students are not required to participate in spring 2027.

- Students in grade 11 are **eligible** to participate in the spring grade 10 ELA and Mathematics tests if they are attempting to qualify for scholarship purposes or the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Students in grade 12 are **not eligible to participate** in spring grade 10 tests for scholarship purposes or the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Additional details provided in the [spring grade 10 MCAS participation guidelines](#).

November High School MCAS Participation FAQ (continued 2)

Q. Can a grade 12 student who is new to Massachusetts take the November tests for scholarship purposes?

A: To qualify for the [Adams Scholarship](#) or the [Koplik Award](#), students need scores in math, ELA, and science. Because grade 12 students may not participate in the February 2027 science administration for scholarship purposes, grade 12 students who have not already taken a high school Science test cannot qualify for these awards and therefore should not participate in the November administration.

3. Resources

Resources to Use Before Testing

Resource	Location
MCAS Resource Center	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org
Guide to the MCAS Portal - Part II: MCAS Portal User Management (2026–27 <i>update available now</i>) - Part III of the Guide to the MCAS Portal: Student Registration (2026–27 <i>update available now</i>) - Part IV: Enrollment Transfer Guide - Part V: Creating and Managing Classes - Part VI: Scheduling Tests, Printing Student Logins, and Other Tasks on the Test Scheduling Page	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal/ <i>Updated guides expected within approximately the next month</i>
MCAS Training Site Guide Guide to Conducting a Practice Test through the MCAS Training Site	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal/ <i>Updated guide expected in October</i>

Resources to Use During and After Testing

Resource	Location
Guide to the MCAS Portal • Part VII: Materials Management Guide • Part VIII: MCAS Portal Dashboards Guide	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal/ <i>Updated guides expected in October</i>

Additional Resources

Resource	Location
MCAS Portal Modules and Video Demonstrations	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/training-modules/
MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide • Technology Guidelines for MCAS Computer-Based Testing • Installing the MCAS Student Kiosk and Conducting Site Readiness • Error Messages	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup/
Student Assessment Updates (Biweekly email with important updates about the MCAS program)	www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/updates.html If you do not already receive this email, subscribe using this link: http://eepurl.com/ghSOhH

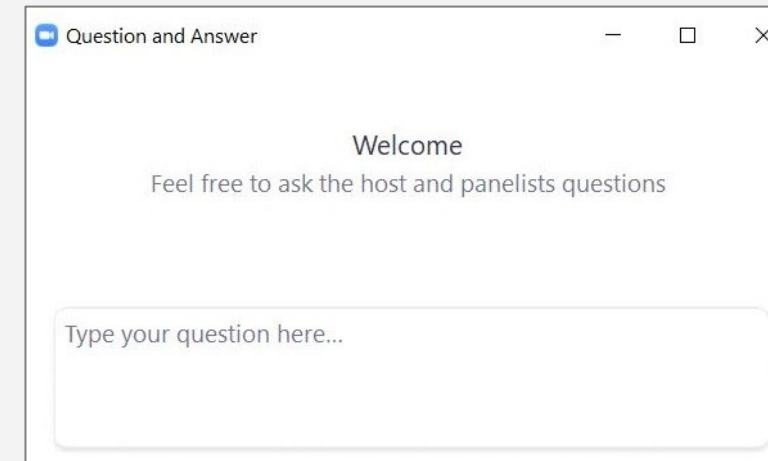
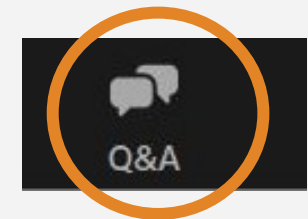
4. Q&A and Demonstrations

What demonstrations would you like to see?

- Examples of demonstration requests
 - Can you demonstrate how to update and import the Student Registration file?
 - Can you demonstrate how to manually update or add a student to the MCAS Portal?
 - I have new staff members who will be administering the November high school tests – can you demonstrate how to add a new user to the MCAS Portal?

Questions & Answers

Use the “Q&A” feature
to ask questions.



5. Additional Resources and Next Steps

Upcoming Trainings

Training	Date/Time
<u>Overview of MCAS Administration Tasks for School and District Test Coordinators</u>	Wednesday, September 30 9:30–11:00 a.m.
<u>Overview of MCAS Administration Tasks for Technology Coordinators</u>	Wednesday, October 7 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Trainings for Grades 3–8

Training	Date/Time
<u>Grades 5 and 8 STE 2027 Revised Test Design Webinar</u>	Friday, October 2 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
<u>Grades 3–5 ELA 2027 Revised Test Design Webinar</u>	Monday, November 2 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
<u>Grades 6–8 ELA 2027 Revised Test Design Webinar</u>	Friday, November 6 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Next Steps

- **Today:** Complete the evaluation form.
 - Responses are associated with the name and email address used to log in.
 - Email your input to mcas@mass.gov if you have problems accessing or completing the form.
- **Within one week:**
 - Receive an email with the Q&A from this session
 - Recording will be available

Email and Phone Support

MCAS Service Center

Logistics and Technology Questions

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



781-338-3625



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