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, refer to the *Guide to the MCAS Portal*, which is available in the MCAS Resource Center.

New for 2026–27: This guide includes the following updates for the 2026–27 school year.

- updated ChromeOS accessibility configuration guidance; refer to page 20 for more information.
- a new iPad external keyboard setting for full kiosk control and Magic Mouse compatibility; refer to page 25 for more information. iPads now show in the MCAS Portal on the Site Readiness details page when conducting Site Readiness.
- The MCAS Student kiosk is updated each year. If your devices have a previous version of the legacy Windows, Linux, or macOS MCAS Student Kiosk, it will need to be uninstalled before downloading and installing the latest version. Refer to step 2 of the installation steps in section IV.
- revised Linux installation steps; refer to page 26 for more information.
- updated Windows OS kiosk installation options, including the new iTester Windows app and the legacy Windows kiosk; refer to page 44 for more information.

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™ notebook computers.

Information on using third-party accessibility or accommodations software with the kiosk for the compatible assistive technology or screen reader accommodations can be found

in Appendix E: Using Assistive Technology as an MCAS Test Accommodation of the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the 2026–2027 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 in the MCAS Portal, 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 app
   - iPadOS app
   - Linux
   - MacOS
   - Windows

   If your student testing devices have the MCAS Student Kiosk installed from the 2025–26 school year, please refer to the table below and the instructions in each section linked above.

Kiosk Installed in 2025–26	Action Required for MCAS Testing in 2026–27
ChromeOS	No action required
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	Uninstall the old kiosk and then download and install the new kiosk.
Windows	If using the legacy Windows kiosk, uninstall the old kiosk and then download and install the new kiosk. If using the iTester for Windows app, uninstall the old kiosk and then download the new app directly from the Microsoft Store. For more information about choosing between the legacy Windows kiosk and the iTester Windows app, refer to Part IV Section E: Windows OS.

4. Complete Site Readiness, 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. DESE will follow up with schools that do not complete Site Readiness testing and certification.

   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, certify that the site is ready for student testing.

For questions about technology guidelines, downloading the MCAS Student Kiosk, and the Site Readiness tool, contact the MCAS Service Center at mcas@cognia.org or 800-737-5103.

II. Technology Guidelines

A. Operating System Support Plan

The table below describes eMetric's plan for supporting operating systems during the 2026–27 school year for MCAS computer-based testing. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines. 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.

Table 1. Operating System Support Plan

Operating System	Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date	eMetric Support Policy
Chrome OS™	150+ 144+ LTS	July 2026 April 2026	End of 2026–27 school year (June 2027)	eMetric supports the versions of ChromeOS that 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®	18.7+ 26.5+	September 2024 September 2025	End of 2026–27 school year End of 2027–28 school year	eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple.