

Overview of MCAS Administration Tasks for Technology Coordinators

The Office of Student Assessment Services

October 7, 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. Updates for 2026–27
2. Overview of MCAS Computer-Based Testing
3. Tasks to Complete in **Fall 2026**
4. Tasks to Complete **at least Two Months** before Testing
5. Tasks to Complete **at least Two Weeks** before Testing
6. Troubleshooting Technology Issues **during Testing**
7. Resources, Support, and Next Steps

Poll Question 1

What is your role? (Select all that apply.)

- A. District test coordinator
- B. School test coordinator
- C. Principal
- D. Technology staff
- E. Other district staff
- F. Other school staff

Poll Question 2

How many years have you been involved in MCAS test administration?

- A. 0—This is my first year
- B. 1 year
- C. 2–3 years
- D. 4–5 years
- E. 6+ years

1. Updates for 2026–27

Technology Updates

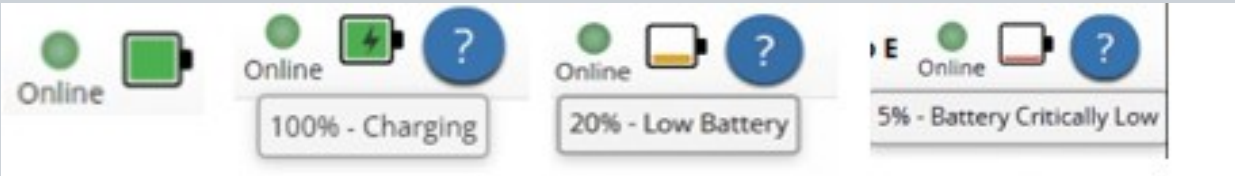
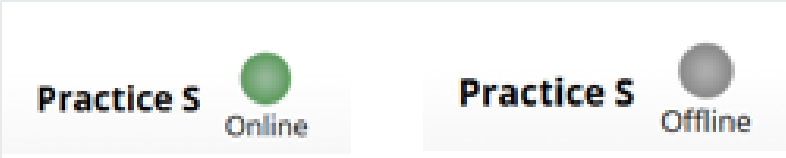
- **ChromeOS:** Updated ChromeOS accessibility configuration guidance; refer to page 20 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#) for more information.
- **iPad:** A new iPad external keyboard setting for full kiosk control and Magic Mouse compatibility; refer to page 25 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#) for more information. iPads now show in the MCAS Portal on the Site Readiness details page when conducting Site Readiness.
- **MacOS:** Schools will need to uninstall the old kiosk before installing the new kiosk.
- **Linux:** Revised Linux installation steps; refer to page 26 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#) for more information.
- **Windows:** A new iTester Windows app option has been added for test delivery. The app will be available through the Microsoft Store and includes automatic updates, helping ensure devices stay current with minimal administrative effort. This app will follow a single-application model similar to the iPadOS kiosk where a location is selected upon first launch.
 - Step-by-step instructions available in the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).
 - The legacy Windows kiosk will still be available for download in the [MCAS Portal](#) and [MCAS Resource Center](#).
 - Schools will need to uninstall the old kiosk before downloading and installing the legacy Windows kiosk or the iTester Windows app.

MacOS Kiosk Installer Update

- An issue was identified with macOS kiosk installer package version **3.57.3** for schools that use an MDM solution.
- An updated macOS kiosk installer (version 3.58.4) was posted to the MCAS Resource Center and MCAS Portal on **September 25**.
- Schools that downloaded and installed macOS kiosk version 3.57.3 through an MDM solution **before September 25** may need to download the updated installer.
- Schools do **not** need to download the updated installer if they:
 - downloaded it after September 25
 - do not use an MDM solution to manage kiosk deployments
 - have not experienced issues installing and managing the kiosk
- Expected to be announced in an upcoming Student Assessment Update.

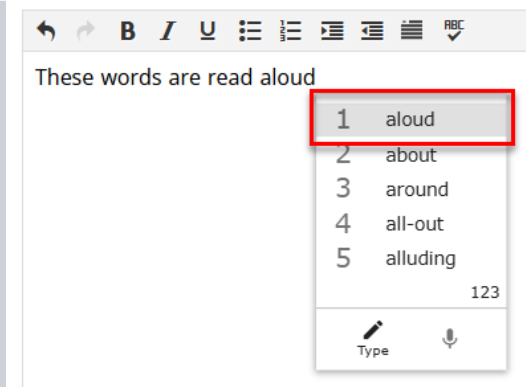
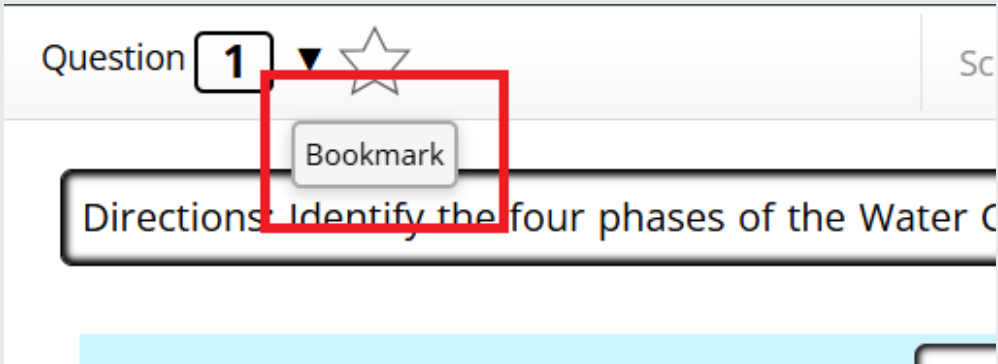
MCAS Student Kiosk Updates

The following updates are now available in the MCAS Student Kiosk:

Update	Screenshot
Students testing on battery-powered devices now have a battery status indicator at the top of the screen. Unavailable on iPadOS (the native battery indicator is visible in the system status bar).	
The visibility of the online/offline status indicator has been updated to include a text label. "Online" or "Offline" now appear below the indicator.	
The "Show All" and "Hide All" buttons have been removed from the answer masking feature on multiple-choice questions. Individual answer masking remains available, allowing students to reveal or hide individual answer choices as needed.	Previous Version: Question 1 ▾ ☆ Screen Zoom: Hide All ⓐ Double click to edit answer choice A. ⓑ Double click to edit answer choice B. ⓒ Double click to edit answer choice C. ⓓ Double click to edit answer choice D. Show All ⓐ Angry ⓑ ⓒ Depressed ⓓ Complacent New Version: Question 1 ▾ ☆ ⓐ Double click to edit answer choice A. ⓑ Double click to edit answer choice B. ⓒ Double click to edit answer choice C. ⓓ Double click to edit answer choice D.

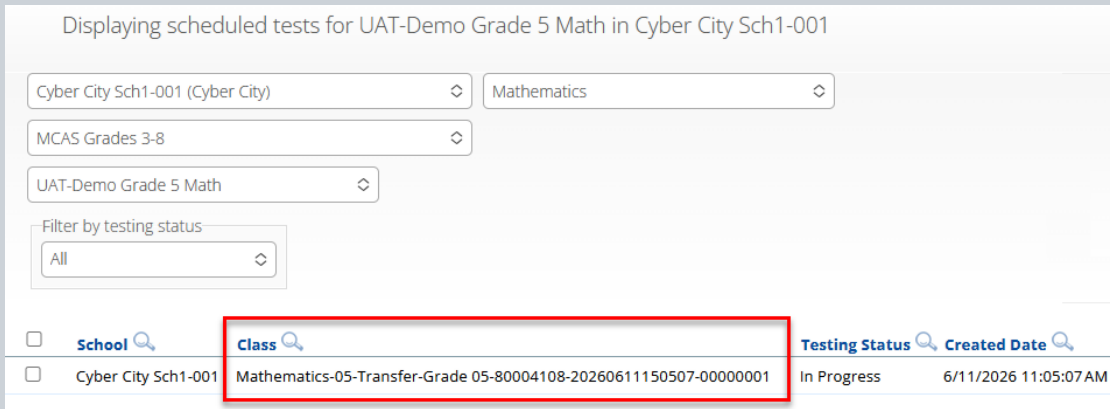
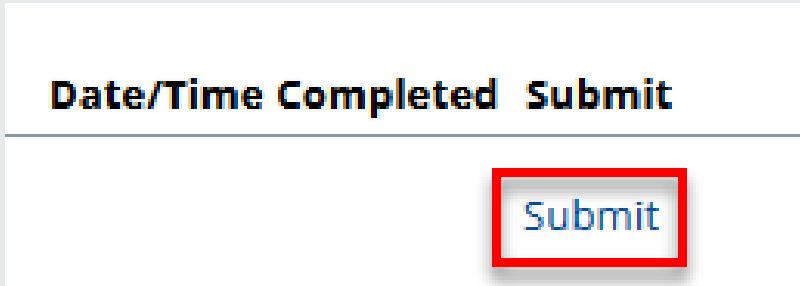
MCAS Student Kiosk Updates (continued)

The following updates are now available in the MCAS Student Kiosk:

Update	Screenshot
Students who have both the Word Prediction and Text-to-Speech (TTS) accommodations can now hear predicted words read aloud as they select them.	 A screenshot of the Word Prediction menu. At the top, it says "These words are read aloud". Below this is a list of five words: 1 aloud, 2 about, 3 around, 4 all-out, and 5 alluding. The word "aloud" is highlighted with a red box. At the bottom of the menu, there are icons for "Type" (a pencil) and a microphone icon.
Tooltips now appear when hovering over on-screen tools on iPads with trackpads.	 A screenshot of the Question 1 interface. At the top, it says "Question 1" with a dropdown arrow and a star icon. Below this is a "Bookmark" button, which is highlighted with a red box. Below the button, there is a text box with the text "Directions: Identify the four phases of the Water C".

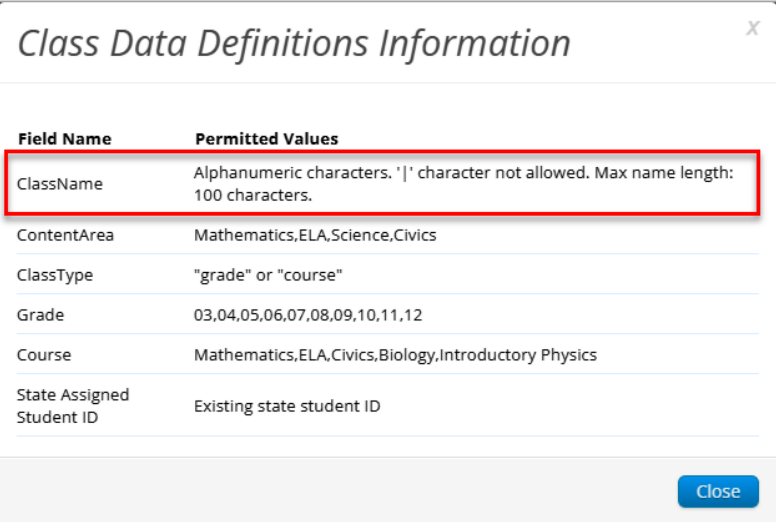
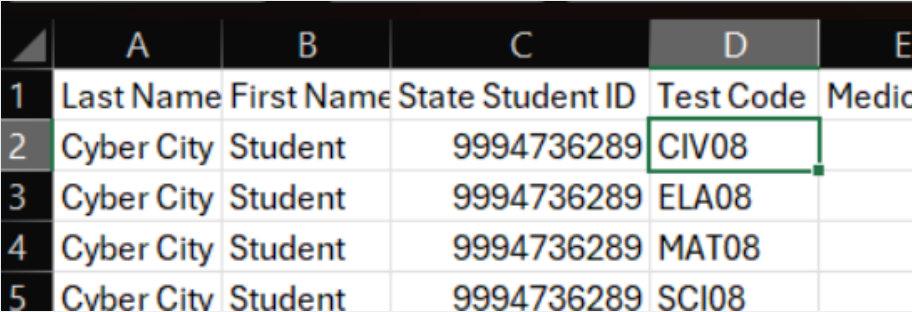
MCAS Portal Updates

The following updates are now available in the MCAS Portal:

Update	Screenshot								
When using the Enrollment Transfer feature to transfer a student to a new organization, their test sessions will now automatically transfer with them. • The new organization will see any In Progress and Completed test sessions from the prior school. • The student will be automatically placed in a Transfer class; this class name will be used on the Classes page and Test Scheduling page, and in Test Status Exports.	 <table><tr><th>School</th><th>Class</th><th>Testing Status</th><th>Created Date</th></tr><tr><td>Cyber City Sch1-001</td><td>Mathematics-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80004108-20260611150507-00000001</td><td>In Progress</td><td>6/11/2026 11:05:07 AM</td></tr></table>	School	Class	Testing Status	Created Date	Cyber City Sch1-001	Mathematics-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80004108-20260611150507-00000001	In Progress	6/11/2026 11:05:07 AM
School	Class	Testing Status	Created Date						
Cyber City Sch1-001	Mathematics-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80004108-20260611150507-00000001	In Progress	6/11/2026 11:05:07 AM						
School and district test coordinators are now able to change a student's test status to Finished. Schools may want to use this feature if a student exits the kiosk instead of turning in the test when they have completed testing.	 Date/Time Completed Submit Submit								

MCAS Portal Updates (continued)

The following additional updates are now available in the MCAS Portal:

Update	Screenshot
The class upload feature now has an increased maximum character limit of 100 characters for class names.	
Portal users can now view the assigned test code in the accommodations export file available on the Students page of the MCAS Portal.	

Upcoming MCAS Portal Updates

The following updates are expected to be implemented prior to the November high school tests:

Update

Students assigned the Spanish/English edition in Student Registration will automatically receive the Spanish/English edition when the test is scheduled. Schools do not need to schedule the Spanish/English edition separately on the Test Scheduling page.

Note that when signing in to the test, students will still need to select Spanish or English from the Localization menu to choose the language for the MCAS Student Kiosk icons and directions.

Upcoming MCAS Portal Updates (continued 1)

The following updates are expected to be implemented prior to the November high school tests:

Update

The Human Read-Aloud accommodation will no longer have a dedicated form displayed in the MCAS Portal. Students in the same class who have the Human Read-Aloud accommodation will receive the same test form number.

Screenshot

Scheduling DetailsProgress View

Filter by Session

Choose a Session

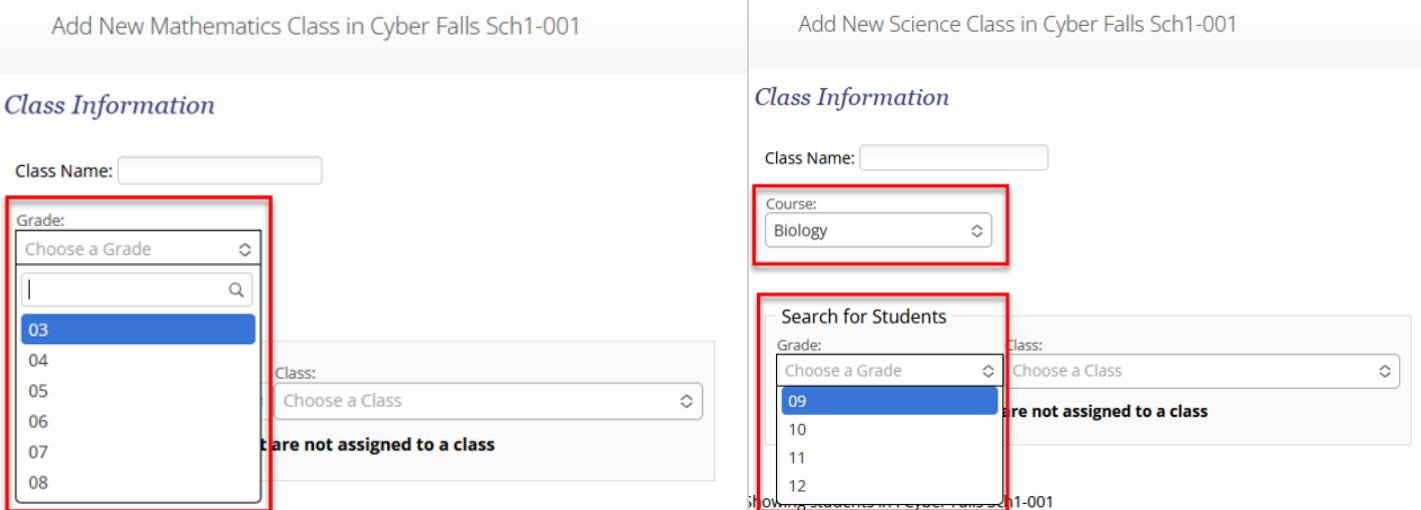
Export Logins for Selected StudentsAdd Report Code

	Last Name	First Name	Username	Password	Form Name	Date/Time Created	Test Report Code	Status
☐	DemoStudent	Courtney	4060607035	9CAFYAVD	Spring 27 Grade 3 Form 02	09/08/2026 1:56:57 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started Session 2:Not Started
☐	DemoStudent	Johnny	2643147861	SA3Q4KHA	Spring 27 Grade 3 Form 02	09/08/2026 1:56:57 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started Session 2:Not Started
☐	DemoStudent	Madison	5744261267	JD5SK4CE	Spring 27 Grade 3 Form 02	09/08/2026 1:56:57 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started Session 2:Not Started
☐	DemoStudent	Stephen	8921347779	ZH366AXK	Spring 27 Grade 3 Form 02	09/08/2026 1:56:57 PM	+	Session 1:Not Started Session 2:Not Started

Showing 1 - 4 of 4

Upcoming MCAS Portal Updates (continued 2)

The following updates are expected to be implemented prior to the November high school tests:

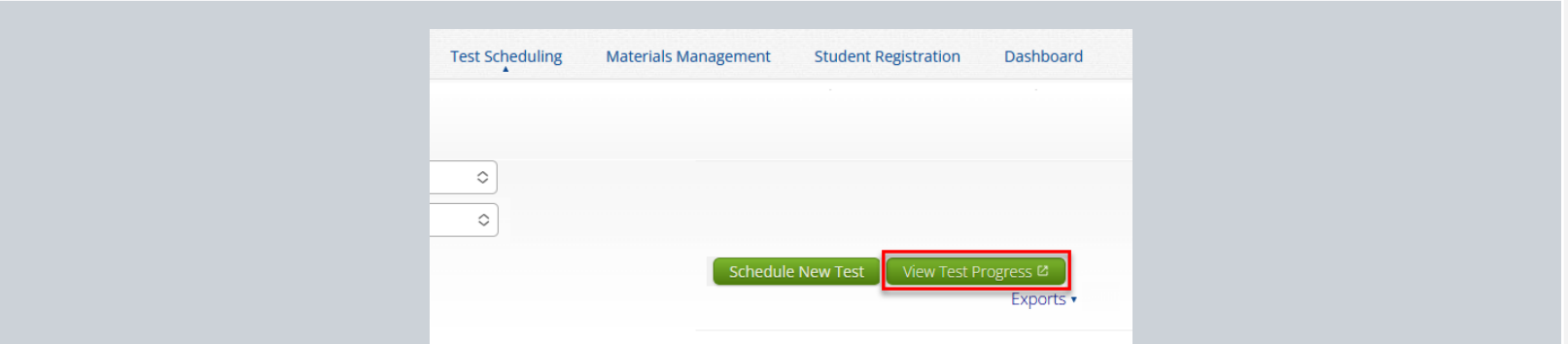
Update	Screenshot
When creating classes, grade-level classes are limited to grades 3–8 and cannot be created for high school students.	
Course-level classes are limited to high school grade levels and courses, so they cannot be created for students in grades 3–8.	
When filtering for students, only those students in grades associated with the course will be allowed to be selected.	

Upcoming MCAS Portal Updates (continued 3)

The following updates are expected to be implemented prior to the November high school tests:

Update	Screenshot
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Test coordinators can view a report showing student test progress data across classes when they select View Test Progress on the Test Scheduling page.



View Test Session Progress Across Classes (Up to 15-Minute Delay): MCAS Grades 3-8, Cyber City Sch QA													
Last Name	First Name	Class Name	Scheduling Details				Progress Metrics						
			Session Name	Status	Date/Time Started	Date/Time Completed	Answered	Not Answered	Total Items	Visited	Last Viewed	Last Activity	Time Spent
Student	Christy	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 1	Finished	08/14/2026 3:29 PM	08/14/2026 3:45 PM	6	17	23	23	Item 23	08/14/2026 3:45 PM	00:01:44
Student	Christy	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 2	Finished	08/14/2026 3:43 PM	08/14/2026 3:46 PM	2	14	16	2	Item 25	08/14/2026 3:43 PM	00:00:06
Student	Daniel	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 1	Finished	09/01/2026 3:12 PM	09/01/2026 3:13 PM	0	23	23	1	Item 1	09/01/2026 3:13 PM	00:00:21
Student	Daniel	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 2	In Progress	08/14/2026 3:45 PM		1	15	16	2	Item 25	08/14/2026 3:53 PM	00:00:05
Student	KC	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 1	In Progress	09/16/2026 1:32 PM		4	12	23	8	Item 30	09/16/2026 1:41 PM	00:00:23
Student	KC	ELA-05-Transfer-Grade 05-80072157-20260814195223-1888-005	Session 2	Not Started									

Future Updates for the Student Kiosk and MCAS Portal

- The following updates are under consideration for the future:
 - Maintain highlighting and notepad after abrupt closure, pause, or log out of the MCAS Student Kiosk.
 - Combining classes for make up testing
 - Expanded test statuses to show the reason why the student exited the test (Paused, Timed Out, Exit)
 - Test administrators can view students' battery levels in the MCAS Portal.
 - Preventing students from being scheduled for the same test more than once

2. Overview of MCAS Computer-Based Testing

MCAS Tests in 2026–27 School Year

Fall/Winter High School Tests

- November
 - ELA and Mathematics tests for students attempting to qualify for the [Adams Scholarship](#), the [Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award](#), and/or the [Seal of Biliteracy](#)
- February
 - Biology and Introductory Physics

Spring 2027 Tests

- Grades 3–8
 - ELA – all grades
 - Mathematics – all grades
 - STE – grades 5 and 8
 - Civics – grade 8
- High School
 - ELA – grade 10
 - Mathematics – grade 10
 - Biology and Introductory Physics

Commonly Used Acronyms

- **CBT:** Computer-based testing
- **PBT:** Paper-based testing
- **EL:** English learner
- **ELA:** English Language Arts
- **STE:** Science and Technology/Engineering
- **SIMS:** Student Information Management System
- **TA:** Test administrator
- **PWA:** Progressive Web App (for ChromeOS)

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal

Fall 2026

- Become familiar with CBT components.
- Review MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guidelines.
- Prepare the school's technology.
- Review cybersecurity guidance and establish a cybersecurity plan for your school.
- Determine whether your school will participate in "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) for MCAS Testing.

At least two months before testing

- Verify access to the MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site.
- Update MCAS Student Kiosk to most recent version (released September 14, 2026; for macOS, released September 25, 2026).

After updating the MCAS Student Kiosk

- Conduct Site Readiness and complete Site Certification.

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal (continued)

At least two weeks
before testing

- If any technology changes have been made since completing Site Readiness, run it again.
- Prepare devices and materials.

One week before
testing

- Familiarize yourself with common issues that may arise during testing and how to troubleshoot.

During testing

- Be available to troubleshoot technology situations as they arise.

3. Tasks to Complete in Fall 2026

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal: Fall 2026

Fall 2026

At least two months prior to testing

After updating the MCAS Student Kiosk

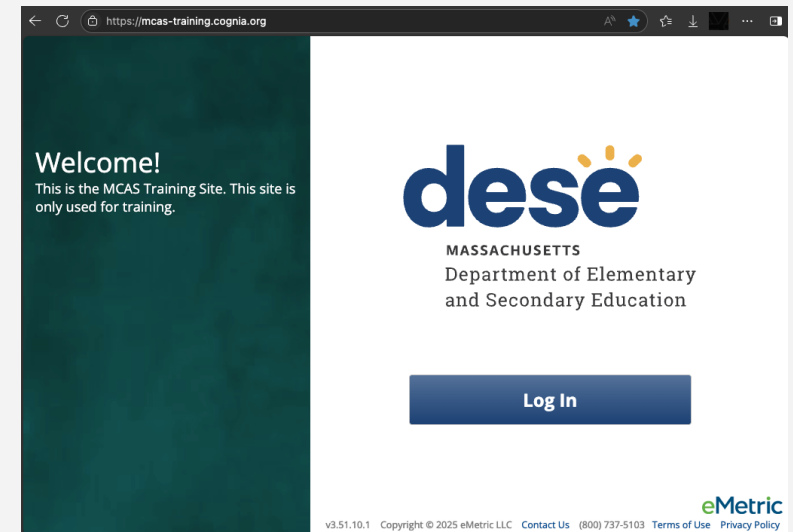
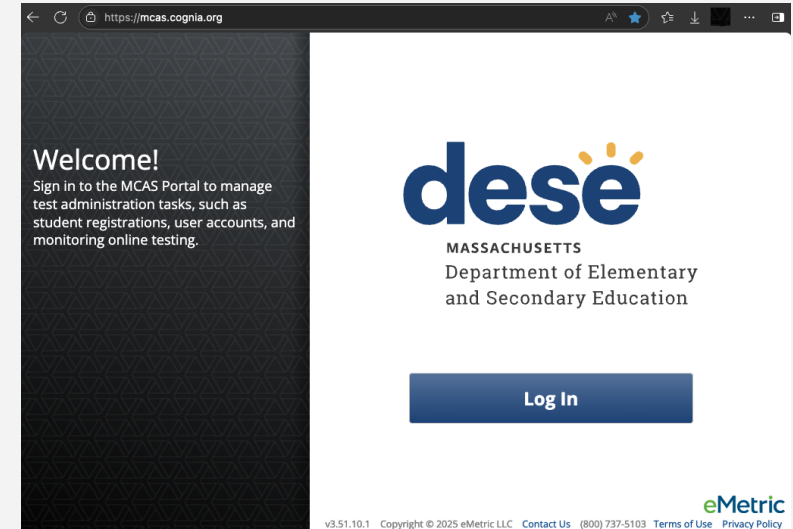
- Become familiar with CBT components.
- Review MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guidelines.
- Prepare the school's technology.
- Review cybersecurity guidance and establish a cybersecurity plan for your school.
- Determine whether your school will participate in "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) for MCAS Testing.

- Verify access to the MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site.
- Update MCAS Student Kiosk to most recent version (released September 14, 2026; for macOS, released September 25, 2026).

- Conduct Site Readiness and complete Site Certification.

1. Become familiar with CBT components.

- **MCAS Portal**
 - Online test management system for principals, test coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators
 - <https://mcas.cognia.org/>
- **MCAS Training Site**
 - Site where test coordinators, principals, technology coordinators, and test administrators can practice the tasks required in the MCAS Portal
 - <https://mcas-training.cognia.org>



1. Become familiar with CBT components. (continued)

- **MCAS Student Kiosk**
 - Online testing platform used by students to take the computer-based MCAS assessments
 - mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/technology-setup
- **Site Readiness**
 - Task completed by technology coordinators to verify that student devices are ready for testing.



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

STUDENT SIGN IN

Username

Password

Sign In

2. Review MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guidelines.

- Part II of the MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide, available on the [MCAS Resource Center](#) on the Technology Setup page
- Outlines the operating systems (OS) versions supported for testing, student kiosk device specifications, and MCAS Portal browser specifications
- OS support
 - As new OS versions and subversions are released throughout the school year, eMetric conducts testing to confirm that they will be supported for testing.
 - **Schools should not update device OS versions during testing windows.**

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	Chrome 151 or newer
<i>(used for practice tests only)</i>	Firefox 153 or newer
	Microsoft Edge 151 or newer
	Safari 26.6 or newer

Desktop and Laptop Specific Requirements

CPU	1.3 GHz
Memory	2 GB (4GB is strongly recommended for best performance)

Poll Question 3

Which operating systems will students in your school/district use for spring 2027 MCAS testing?
(Select all that apply.)

- A. ChromeOS
- B. iPadOS
- C. Linux/Fedora
- D. macOS
- E. Windows
- F. Other

ChromeOS Support Plan

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.

Version	Version Release Date
150+	July 2026
144+ LTS	April 2026

Refer to page 3 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

iPadOS Support Plan

eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple.

Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date
18.7+	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year
26.5+	September 2025	End of 2027–28 school year
27	Expected fall 2026	End of 2028–29 school year

Refer to pages 3–4 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

Support for macOS (64-bit only)

eMetric supports the latest three major versions that are supported by Apple.

Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date
15.7+	September 2024	End of 2026–27 school year
26.5+	September 2025	End of 2027–28 school year
27	Expected fall 2026	End of 2028–29 school year

Refer to page 4 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

Support for Linux and Windows

Operating System	Version	Version Release Date	End of Support Date	eMetric Support Policy
Linux, Fedora (64-bit only)	44	April 2026	End of 2026–27 school year	eMetric supports the latest version of Fedora
Windows	11 (24H2 Educator, Enterprise, IoT Enterprise, Enterprise Multi-Session; 25H2; 26H1; 26H2)	October 2021	October 2031	- eMetric supports <i>major</i> versions of Windows that are supported by Microsoft. - The latest supported <i>minor</i> versions of Windows are supported.

Refer to page 4 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

3. Prepare the school's technology.

- Identify any gaps in technology capacity (e.g., test-taking devices that do not meet technology specifications) and address those gaps.
- Plan to have enough devices for test administrators and students, including back-up devices that can be used if needed.
- Update firewalls, proxy and content filter servers, and sandboxing applications.
- Turn off operating system auto-updates during live administrations.

Network Requirements and Guidelines

Firewalls

- Allow traffic through ports 80 and 443.

Proxy and Content Filter Servers

- List of URLs to allow on ports 80 and 443 available on page 6 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#)

Sandboxing Applications

- Choose network folder or local folder that is not touched by the sandboxing applications
- Applicable for both stored response and kiosk installation folders
- Refer to page 6 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#)

Turn off operating system auto-updates during live test administrations.

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 need to click anywhere on the screen to regain focus in the kiosk, and then they will be able to resume testing where they left off.
- To prevent these interruptions, 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.**OR**
 - If OneDrive cannot be disabled, the technology coordinator should take the necessary steps to prevent any actions, including file sharing or synchronization and administration updates to OneDrive settings, that would trigger a OneDrive notification during student testing.

Accommodations with Supported OS

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

Accommodation	Supported Operating System
Compatible Assistive Technology	Windows
Mouse Pointer	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, iPadOS*
Screen Reader	Windows (NVDA, Jaws)
Speech-to-Text Standard and Special Access	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, iPadOS
Word Prediction Standard and Special Access	Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, iPadOS

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

Monitor Settings for Screen Zoom

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

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 recommended screen resolutions. Students should use the screen resolution they are most comfortable with. The student or test administrator can set the zoom level in the MCAS Student Kiosk when the student logs in for testing.

4. Review cybersecurity guidance and establish a cybersecurity plan for your school.

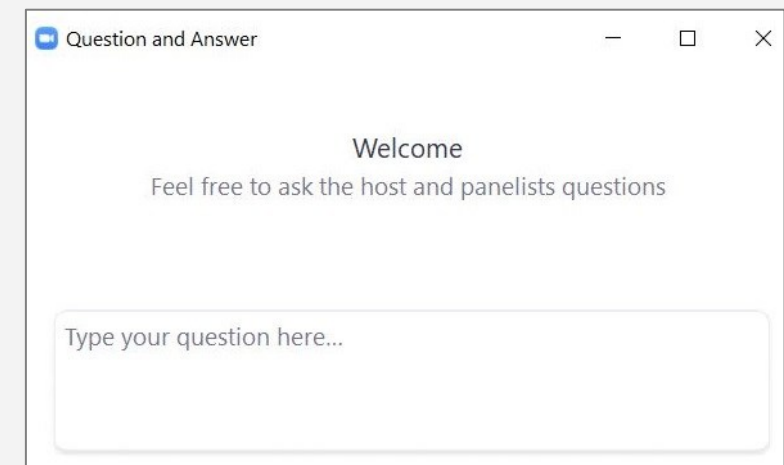
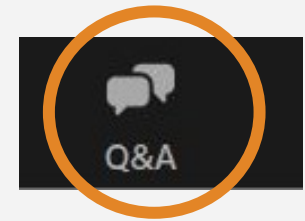
- Review resources for cybersecurity planning to avoid issues that could arise during MCAS testing.
 - [Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Roadmap](#)
 - [Cybersecurity Best Practices](#)
 - [Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K–12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats](#)
 - [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Cybersecurity Framework](#) and [NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0: Resource & Overview Guide](#)
 - [K12 SIX Essentials Series](#) and [K12 Six School District Cybersecurity Self-Assessment: 2026](#)
- Email DESE's Office of Educational Technology at k12edtech@mass.gov with questions.

5. Determine whether your school will participate in “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) for MCAS Testing.

- A BYOD policy allows students to use their own devices for instruction.
- If your school uses a BYOD policy and would like to use these devices for MCAS testing, email mcas@mass.gov for additional instructions by deadlines listed in Student Assessment Updates.
- Schools will follow the instructions in the MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide to download the kiosk onto BYOD devices and will also have additional instructions that they will receive from DESE.

Questions & Answers 1

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



4. Tasks to Complete at least Two Months Prior to Testing

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal: At least two months prior to testing

Fall 2026

- Become familiar with CBT components.
- Review MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guidelines.
- Prepare the school's technology.
- Review cybersecurity guidance and establish a cybersecurity plan for your school.
- Determine whether your school will participate in "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) for MCAS Testing.

At least two months prior to testing

- Verify access to the MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site.
- Update MCAS Student Kiosk to most recent version (released September 14, 2026; for macOS, released September 25, 2026).

After updating the MCAS Student Kiosk

- Conduct Site Readiness and complete Site Certification.

6. Verify access to the MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site.

- [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
- [MCAS Training Site](#): where test coordinators, principals, technology coordinators, and test administrators can practice the tasks required in the MCAS Portal
- Accounts for each site are created separately.
- Passwords for each site are ***set separately***, but DESE recommends using the ***same password*** for both the MCAS Portal and the MCAS Training Site.

Poll Question 4

Who should you reach out to if you need an MCAS Portal or MCAS Training Site account?

- A. Your school test coordinator or principal
- B. Your district test coordinator
- C. MCAS Service Center
- D. All of the above

6. Verify access to the MCAS Portal and MCAS Training Site. (continued)

- If you cannot access your MCAS Portal or MCAS Training Site account, are not able to access your school or district, or are new and need an account, users can 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

Getting Started: Logging In

- [Browser specifications](#) for the MCAS Portal:
 - Chrome™ 151 or newer
 - Firefox® 153 or newer
 - Microsoft Edge 151 or newer
 - Safari® 26.6 or newer
- Passwords are valid for 365 days.
 - To reset your password, select “Forgot Password?” on the MCAS Portal log in page.
 - For detailed steps, refer to [Part II of the Guide to the MCAS Portal: MCAS Portal User Management](#).

7. Download and install the updated MCAS Student Kiosks.

- Released September 14, 2026; for macOS, released September 25, 2026.
- Detailed instructions for setting up the 2026–27 MCAS web app for ChromeOS and extension are provided in the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).
- Available for download from the [MCAS Portal](#) for iPad, Linux, Mac, and Windows
 - Use the direct links to access the apps on the Apple App Store and Windows Store.
 - Be sure to download the correct MCAS Student Kiosk for each device type.
- Scripted installations and other methods of installation are provided in the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

Uninstalling 2025–26 Kiosks

- Use the table below for student testing devices with the MCAS Student Kiosk installed from 2025–26. For step-by-step instructions, refer to the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).

Kiosk Installed in 2025–26	Action Required for MCAS Testing in 2026–27
ChromeOS	Confirm that all previous configuration requirements remain in place and complete steps 10–13 in the ChromeOS instructions, which outline new steps to disable Chrome Accessibility features.
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	New for 2026–27: Uninstall the old kiosk and then download and install the new kiosk.
Windows	New for 2026–27: 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.

ChromeOS Kiosk Procedures

- If you have the Progressive Web App (PWA) installed from 2025–26 school year, please review pages 20–22 of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#) to ensure specific new accessibility settings are disabled.
 - Verify that the app is working as expected by completing Site Readiness on the devices.
- If you need to install the PWA, follow the step-by-step instructions for setup and configuration that are included in the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#) on pages 8–23. **Every step must be followed; certain steps require careful typing or copying.**
 - Strongly recommended: Use the [Installation Quick Copy document](#) to assist with copying/pasting text while installing the PWA.
 - **Extension Pairing:** The PWA will work alongside a Chrome extension to support secure kiosk testing.
 - **Test the app before administration starts:** We strongly recommend schools and districts coordinate with their technology coordinators to install and test the PWA by completing Site Readiness on devices as soon as it is installed.

ChromeOS Application Common Errors

- The PWA app was added to your ChromeOS management console but is not showing on the device.
 - Ensure that the device is enrolled into the organization and the child organizational units (OU) inherit the app and policy settings from the parent OU.
 - If inheritance is disabled, the kiosk app will not appear on devices in those child OUs and the policy settings and app must be installed locally in the correct child OU.

ChromeOS Application Common Errors (continued)

- The PWA app is installed but not launching in kiosk mode.
 - Pay close attention when copy/pasting during installation and configuration as any typos, missing hyphens, added spaces, or added characters will prevent the app from entering kiosk mode.
 - When launching the PWA app ensure you are launching the app from the Chromebook sign in screen.
- For both of these errors, refer to installation steps 3–10 (pages 9–12) and configuration steps 4 and 5 (pages 16–17) in the MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide.

8. After updating the MCAS Student Kiosk, conduct Site Readiness and Site Certification.

What are the purposes of conducting Site Readiness and Site Certification?

- Site Readiness and Site Certification are procedures that confirm that the updated MCAS Student Kiosk has been properly installed on student devices, and that those devices have been properly configured prior to testing.
- It is recommended to complete directly after installing the updated MCAS Student Kiosk.
- If any changes to technology take place, it is strongly recommended to complete again prior to testing.
- DESE will follow up with schools and districts that do not complete Site Readiness.
- **New for 2026–27:** iPads now show in the MCAS Portal on the Site Readiness details page when conducting Site Readiness.

Site Readiness Tests

- Site Readiness is a two-part test that allows technology coordinators to ensure the MCAS Student Kiosk has been properly installed.

Site Readiness Tests	Purpose of Test
System Set-Up Test	Verifies and confirms the following: • network connectivity • screen resolution • text-to-speech • how many students may begin testing at the same time
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 ensure those are functioning properly.

Demonstration

- Retrieving Site Readiness credentials
- Conducting the Site Readiness test
- Certifying Site Readiness

Retrieving Site Readiness Credentials

1. Log in to the [MCAS Portal](#) with your username and password.
2. On the Portal home page, click **Administration**. The Site Readiness account information appears at the bottom of the Administration home page.
3. Make a note of the username and password for the school, which you will use to log in to the MCAS Student Kiosk.

Site Readiness login for

Cyber City Sch DLV1 (Cyber City) ▼

Username: WSR-00-88I888-012

Password: 00-88I888-012

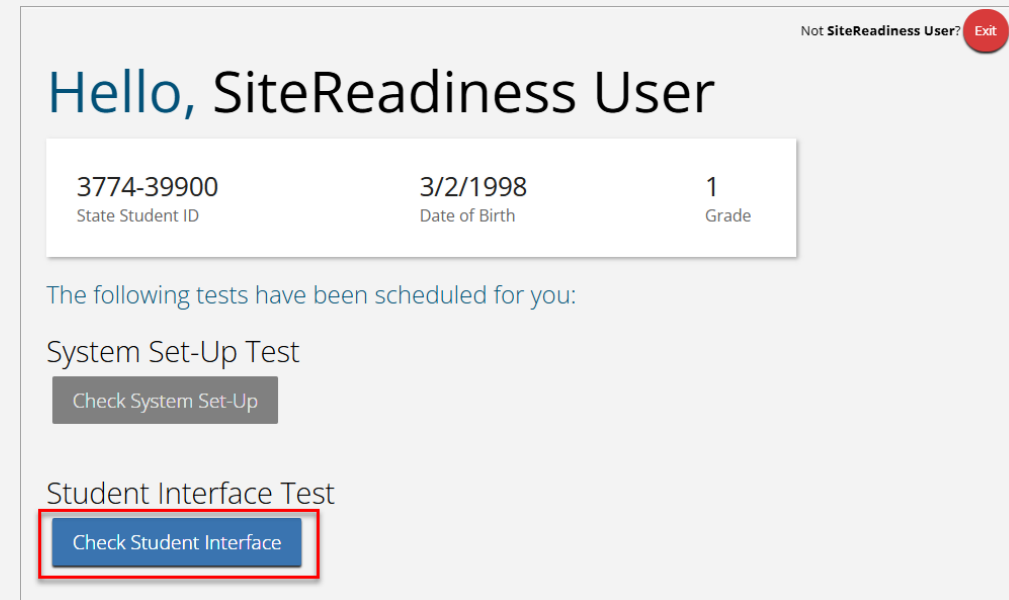
Conduct Site Readiness: System Set-Up Test

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.
3. Under **System Set-Up Test**, click **Check System Set-Up** to begin the test.

The screenshot shows the MCAS Student Kiosk interface for a Site Readiness User. At the top right, it says "Not SiteReadiness User?" with a red "Exit" button. The main heading is "Hello, SiteReadiness User". Below this is a white box containing user information: "3774-39900" (State Student ID), "3/2/1998" (Date of Birth), and "1" (Grade). Underneath, it states "The following tests have been scheduled for you:". There are two test sections: "System Set-Up Test" with a blue button labeled "Check System Set-Up" (highlighted with a red rectangle), and "Student Interface Test" with a blue button labeled "Check Student Interface".

Conduct Site Readiness: Student Interface Test

1. If all the system checks succeed, 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.
2. When the System Set-Up test is completed, click the blue **Check Student Interface** button.
3. Read the instructions on the page and then click **Continue**.
4. Confirm that you can respond to a few questions and try a few student tools.
5. On the last test question page, click **Finish**.
6. On the Test Review page, click **Turn In** to submit your test.



Not SiteReadiness User? [Exit](#)

Hello, SiteReadiness User

3774-39900 State Student ID	3/2/1998 Date of Birth	1 Grade
--------------------------------	---------------------------	------------

The following tests have been scheduled for you:

System Set-Up Test

[Check System Set-Up](#)

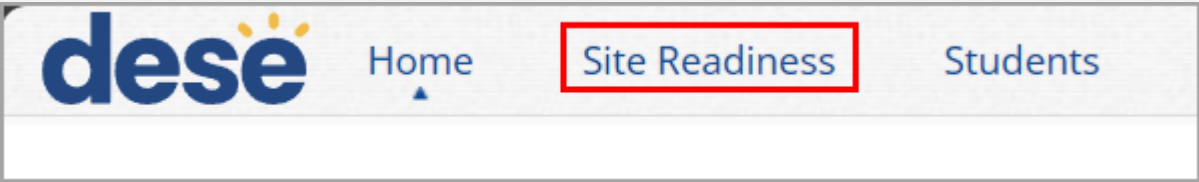
Student Interface Test

[Check Student Interface](#)

Certify Site Readiness

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

- 1. Log in to the MCAS Portal with your username and password.
 - **Note:** Use your own username and password, not the Site Readiness credentials.
- 2. Click **Administration**.
- 3. Click **Site Readiness** at the top of the page.
- 4. On the Site Readiness page, locate the school to be certified, and then click **View Details**.



Site Readiness in Cyber Valley Sch1-001			
Cyber Valley Sch1-001 (Cyber Valley)			
School	Number of Devices Tested	Date and Time	Certified By
Cyber Valley Sch1-001	1		View Details

Certify Site Readiness (continued)

5. On the Site Readiness Details page, verify that all the devices or device configurations for the school have successfully run the Site Readiness tool and meet the technology requirements.
6. Click **Certify Site Readiness** and click **Yes** in the pop-up message to confirm.

Site Readiness Details

Cyber Valley Sch1-001 (Cyber Valley)

Device Name	OS	Screen Size	Date and Time
eMetric-307	window 15.0.0	1280x730	9/25/2024 3:53:41 PM

Showing 1 - 1 of 1

Site Certification

I certify that Site Readiness tests have been performed on the above machines and any noted issues have been resolved.

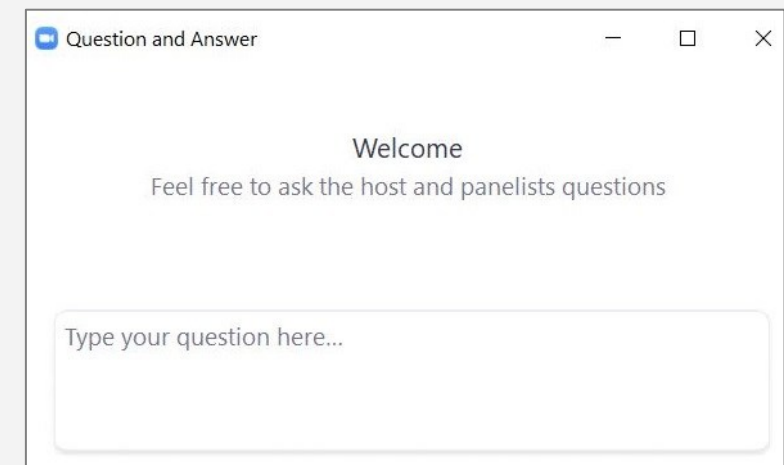
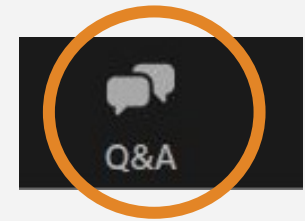
Certify Site Readiness

*Date and time is in Eastern Standard Time.

« Back

Questions & Answers 2

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



5. Tasks to Complete at least Two Weeks before Testing

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal: At least two weeks before testing

At least two weeks before testing

- If any technology changes have been made since completing Site Readiness, run it again.
- Prepare devices and materials.

One week before testing

- Familiarize yourself with common issues that may arise during testing and how to troubleshoot.

During testing

- Be available to troubleshoot technology situations as they arise.

9. If any technology changes have been made since completing Site Readiness, complete it again.

- We understand that technology setups at schools and districts may change over the course of the school year. If there are any changes such as those listed below, it is **highly recommended** to rerun Site Readiness testing.
 - Operating system versions change
 - New student testing devices are purchased
 - New proxy, firewall, or other network setup changes have been made that could impact student testing
 - New Wi-Fi or other internet setup changes have been made that could impact student testing

10. Prepare devices and materials.

- Ensure all devices will be charged prior to each test session.
- Have the following materials available, and confirm they are in working order:
 - Power cords, power strips, extra batteries, extra computers
 - If using tablets: external keyboards
 - If students are using Text-to-Speech or screen reader: headphones (Students do not need headphones otherwise.)

6. Troubleshooting Technology Issues during Testing

Timeline for Technology Tasks in the MCAS Portal: One week before testing & during testing

At least two weeks before testing

- If any technology changes have been made since completing Site Readiness, run it again.
- Prepare devices and materials.

One week before testing

- Familiarize yourself with common issues that may arise during testing and how to troubleshoot.

During testing

- Be available to troubleshoot technology situations as they arise.

Troubleshooting Technology Issues during Testing

- Technology coordinators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with common issues that may arise during testing and how to troubleshoot by reviewing Appendix A of the Principal's Administration Manual (PAM) and Appendix B of the [MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide](#).
- Technology coordinators should plan to be available during testing to assist with technology issues if they arise.
- For all technology issues, it is good practice to record the exact device the student is testing on. Keep student on the same device when possible. Escalate issues to the MCAS Service Center as needed.

Clearing the Application Cache

- In some situations, technology coordinators may clear the MCAS Student Kiosk application cache as a first step towards resolving technology issues, including the following situations:
 - If an image is not rendering correctly
 - If a drag-and-drop item is not operating correctly
- In these cases, technology coordinators can:
 1. Instruct the student to log out of the test.
 2. Select the **Clear Cache** link for Windows, macOS, Linux, and ChromeOS. For iPadOS close the iTester app completely on the iPad to clear the cache.
 3. Instruct the student to log back in to the test.

Clearing the Application Cache (continued)

Online

dese

MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

STUDENT SIGN IN

Username

Password

Sign In

Access the Practice Test

Copyright © 2026 eMetric LLC
Carrier: v3.57.3 #a07e537 #225
Shell: v3.58.2.1 #837d4fd7 prd
[Clear Cache](#)

English

Copyright © 2026 eMetric LLC
Carrier: v3.57.3 #a07e537 #225
Shell: v3.58.2.1 #837d4fd7 prd
[Clear Cache](#)

English

Copyright © 2026 eMetric LLC
Carrier: v3.57.3 #a07e537 #225
Shell: v3.58.2.1 #837d4fd7 prd

Are you sure? [Yes](#)

English

Steps to Resolve Error Messages

1. If possible, do not power the device off until the student has exited the MCAS Student Kiosk.
2. Record the exact device the student is testing on.
 - Note: It is generally best practice to keep a record of which devices students test on for each test session.
3. Troubleshoot the error according to the instructions in Appendix A of the [PAM](#).
 - If your school is experiencing a high volume of error messages, contact the MCAS Service Center.
4. When resuming a test after an error has exited the student from the kiosk, the original testing device should be used first.
 - This is so that any unsent responses on the original device can be sent to eMetric.
5. If the original testing device cannot be used or if the original error is still occurring, contact the MCAS Service Center for support.

Common MCAS Student Kiosk Error Messages

Error Message	Resolution
Invalid username/password	• The student is using the incorrect password or username when trying to log in to the MCAS Student Kiosk. • Verify the correct username and password in the MCAS Portal and have the student try again.
We could not establish a connection to our server, please check your internet connection.	• Internet connectivity was lost after the student entered their username and password. • The MCAS Student Kiosk detected the loss of internet connectivity and will not allow the student to log in until internet connectivity is reestablished. • Contact your technology coordinator.
Incorrect access code. Please try again.	• The student is using the incorrect access code for the session selected or typing in the access code incorrectly. • Verify the correct access code in the MCAS Portal and have the student try again.

Common MCAS Student Kiosk Error Messages (continued 1)

Error Message	Resolution
We were unable to get your Test Session. Please check your internet connection and try again.	• Internet connectivity was lost after the student logged in. • The MCAS Student Kiosk will not load the test sessions until a connection to the internet is reestablished. Click Retry. • If internet connectivity is established, then the student will be directed to the test session. • If an internet connection is not detected, contact your technology coordinator.
We could not establish a connection to our server, please check your internet connection.	• The eMetric servers cannot reach the stored response folder location due to a network connectivity failure. • Contact your technology coordinator.

Common MCAS Student Kiosk Error Messages (continued 2)

Error Message	Resolution
Please raise your hand; your test session has timed out.	• The student has timed out of their test session, meaning they have been inactive in the test for 60 minutes or more. • Click Exit to go back to the sign-in page. • When the student is ready to continue testing, they will log back into the student testing interface and select the session, enter the access code, and the test administrator will enter the proctor password. • The student will resume testing where they left off.
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 completed the test. • The student's responses are saved to the local folder configured when installing the MCAS Student Kiosk. • Enter the proctor password to acknowledge the message. • Note the student's device ID. • Contact your technology coordinator to establish internet connection. • Relaunch the MCAS Student Kiosk on the student's device.

MCAS Student Kiosk: Moving Devices

- If a student's device becomes unusable during a test while they are connected to the internet, follow these steps when moving them to a new device.
 1. If possible, verify that the number of responses showing as answered on the student's device match the number answered on the Progress View tab on the View Details/Student logins page for the test.
 - If not possible, or if the number of responses do not match, contact the MCAS Service Center.
 2. Have the student Pause and Exit the test.
 3. Move the student to a new device.
 4. Have the student log in with their username, password, and access code.
 5. Student should be able to continue where they left off.

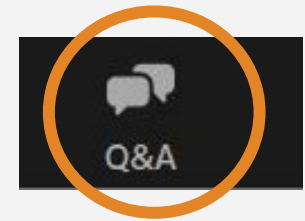
MCAS Student Kiosk: Internet Connectivity

- Internet connectivity is required during testing only as follows:
 - At the **beginning** of the test to authenticate student login and download the test content
 - At the **end** of the test to submit responses for scoring
- Student responses sync with eMetric servers every 45–90 seconds.
- Once a student has finished reading the test session directions and the content has downloaded onto the local device, the student may continue testing regardless of internet connectivity.
- Note: For grades 5 and 8 STE, internet connectivity is required for the entirety of the test. Internet connectivity is also required for students using text-to-speech or ASL video accommodations.

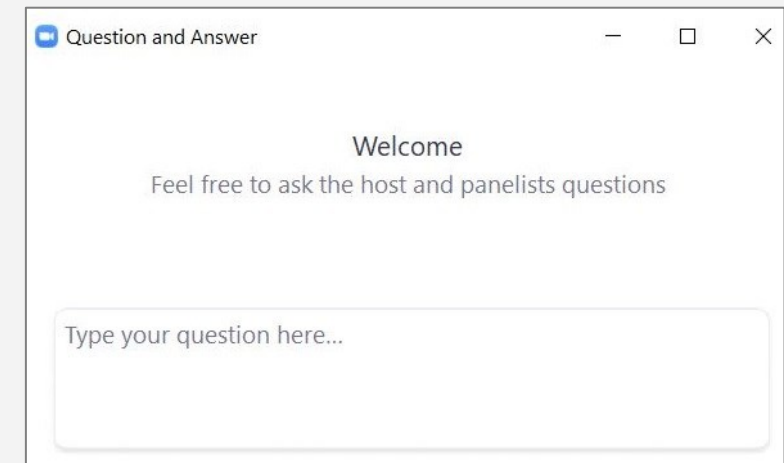
Loss of Network Connectivity Procedure Summary

- If a student's device loses internet connectivity during testing:
 1. The student should keep testing on that device. Do not move a student to a new device when experiencing technical issues if the student has already begun testing.
 2. Student responses will be saved to the save response location indicated during MCAS Student Kiosk installation.
 3. Once internet connectivity resumes, the saved responses will automatically be synced to eMetric servers.
- If a student finishes and is ready to turn in the test while offline (prior to the network being restored):
 1. Allow student to turn in test.
 2. The student will receive a message to notify the test administrator.
 3. Record the exact device the student is testing on.
 4. Ensure no network management tools or system maintenance will alter that device's files or configuration.
 5. When network connectivity is restored, the test administrator will need to resume internet connectivity and relaunch the MCAS Student Kiosk on the original testing device. (If you can see the student login page, the saved responses have synced.)
 6. Verify the student now shows as Finished on the Test Scheduling page in the MCAS Portal for this test. The Progress View tab will also show all responses as answered.

Questions & Answers 3



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



7. Resources, Support, and Next Steps

Additional Resources

Resource	Location
MCAS Resource Center	mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org
MCAS Portal user guides	https://mcas.onlinehelp.cognia.org/portal/
Technology Information • MCAS Student Kiosk Technology Guide <i>(includes Technology Guidelines, instructions for downloading and installing updated kiosks, instructions for Site Readiness and Site Certification, and troubleshooting information)</i>	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
Cybersecurity Resources	https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/

Upcoming Trainings – Fall 2026

Training	Date
Overview of Conducting a Practice Test through the MCAS Training Site	<u>Wednesday, November 18 at 9:30–11:00a.m.</u>
MCAS Accessibility and Accommodations	<u>Tuesday, December 8 at 9:30–11:00a.m.</u>

Upcoming Trainings – January 2027

Training	Date
Overview of Student Registration	<u>Wednesday, January 20</u>
Office Hours – Accessibility and Accommodations	<u>Thursday, January 21</u>
Administering the MCAS Braille Tests	<u>Thursday, January 21, at 12:00 p.m.</u>
MCAS Test Administration for New Staff	<u>Tuesday, January 26</u>
MCAS Security Protocols for New Staff	<u>Wednesday, January 27</u>
MCAS Test Administration and Security Protocols for Returning Staff	<u>Thursday, January 28</u>

Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Trainings – February and March 2027

Training	Date
Overview of MCAS Administration Tasks for Technology Coordinators	<u>Monday, February 1</u>
Office Hours for Spring 2027 MCAS Tests	<u>Friday, February 5</u>
Office Hours for Technology Coordinators	<u>Tuesday, February 9</u>
Overview of Spanish/English MCAS Tests	<u>Thursday, February 11</u>
Tasks in the MCAS Portal Before Testing	<u>Tuesday, March 2</u>
Tasks in the MCAS Portal During Testing	<u>Tuesday, March 9</u>
Tasks in the MCAS Portal After Testing	<u>Tuesday, March 16</u>
Office Hours for MCAS Portal Tasks	<u>Thursday, March 18</u>

Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.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



mcas@mass.gov



www.doe.mass.edu/mcas



135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149