

## Can students participate in the Retest by submitting an MCAS alternate assessment portfolio?

Yes, but only if the IEP Team determines that the student requires an alternate assessment because he or she is unable to demonstrate knowledge and skills through participation in the standard MCAS Retest, even with accommodations, due to a significant disability. The portfolio should be developed over the course of many months, and Team members should periodically review material to assess progress and completeness. A student passes only if the portfolio demonstrates math and English skills equal to or better than passing scores for regular MCAS (220).

## Can students get help to prepare for the MCAS Retest?

Yes, there are several ways students can prepare for the MCAS Retest.

- Request an IEP (or 504) Team meeting, and review the IEP to address the math and English skills the student must learn to pass MCAS.
- Review previous MCAS test results to determine which specific math and English skills the student still needs to learn.
- Make sure the IEP specifies goals, objectives, specialized instruction, supports, and services necessary to learn the material covered by MCAS (this could include additional instruction, such as resource room help, 1:1 tutoring, or other supports necessary to meet the student's individual learning needs).
- Utilize the MCAS Retest questions released by the Department of Education for review or practice. See [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html)
- Ask your school district for a list of any MCAS remedial programs offered during school, after-school, or in the summer.

## What can you do as a Team member?

- Consider the full range of accommodations for individual students with disabilities. Examples include:
  - Extended time with breaks
  - Testing in periods of \_\_\_ minutes followed by rest breaks of \_\_\_ minutes
  - Marking answers in test booklet
  - Small group or individual testing
  - Large print or Braille
  - Use of assistive technology
  - Physical assistance for tracking
  - Cueing students to remain on task
  - Use of reader (person or electronic text)
  - Use of scribe
  - Use of sign language interpreter
  - Use of a spell-check device
  - Use of a calculator
- Make sure the student receives all accommodations listed in his or her IEP.
- Review the student's homework and classroom tests to make sure that the student is taught the English and math skills covered by MCAS. Special education law requires that students with disabilities be taught the material contained in the state's Curriculum Frameworks and covered by the test. See Frameworks at: [www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/)
- For more information about state policies regarding accommodations, check out the state's MCAS Participation Guidelines at: [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/spedreq.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/spedreq.pdf) or call 781-338-3625.

This brochure was produced in part with a grant from the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

Este folleto también está disponible en español en nuestra página de internet [www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org).

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO FAIL GRADE 10 MCAS

# MCAS RETEST OPTIONS

### For further information:

Tel: 617-357-8431 x234



A PDF version of this brochure is available for copying at [www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org).

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ADVOCATES  
for CHILDREN

100 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
[www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org)

## Who can take the MCAS Retest?

Any student who has failed the 10th grade math and/or English MCAS test has the right to retake the MCAS test.

## How many times can a student retake MCAS?

There is no limit on the number of times a student can take the MCAS Retest, even if they are not currently attending school.

## When can students take the MCAS Retest?

School districts provide the MCAS Retest in November and March. The state also offers the Retest in July in regional locations throughout the state.

## Is the MCAS Retest the same as the regular MCAS test?

No, the MCAS Retest is called a “focused” Retest, because it focuses only on the math and English skills necessary for the student to achieve a passing score of 220 (“Needs Improvement”), and cannot be used to determine performance at the “Proficient” or “Advanced” levels. The MCAS Retest omits the more challenging questions necessary to determine whether a student has skills necessary for these more advanced levels.

## How do parents and students find out about the Retest?

- School districts are obligated to notify parents and students enrolled in school of the opportunity to take the MCAS Retest. School districts are encouraged to notify students of Retest options even if they are out of school.
- If the parent or student has not been contacted by the school district, call as soon as possible to register for the Retest.
- There is no charge for taking MCAS Retests.

## What if students with disabilities need accommodations for the Retest?

Students with disabilities must receive necessary accommodations, as determined by the IEP (or 504) Team. Teams should consider the full range of accommodations based on the student’s needs, including but not limited to:

- Extended time with breaks
- Marking answers in test booklet
- Use of assistive technology
- Fewer items placed on each page
- Use of reader (person or electronic text)
- Use of scribe
- Use of spell-check device
- Use of calculator

Take the following steps if a student requires accommodations for the MCAS Retest:

- Review the student’s IEP (or 504 plan) and make sure all necessary accommodations are specifically listed. Students are entitled to accommodations necessary to ensure a fair chance to demonstrate knowledge and skills.
- If necessary accommodations are not specifically listed on the IEP, immediately request an IEP Team meeting. It is best to request the IEP meeting in writing, and state that the Team must meet before the MCAS Retest date. It is the IEP Team’s responsibility to determine how a student will participate in MCAS.

