

Recommended Testing Times and Information on Test Sessions

MCAS test sessions will remain untimed in spring 2019. The recommended times for scheduling test sessions are based on an analysis of student testing time from the MCAS next-generation computer-based testing in 2018. The Department will continue to review testing time used by students during computer-based testing and may make additional adjustments in the future.

For all of the tests except the high school STE and the Biology and Introductory Physics field tests, schools should plan for one short, supervised break per session (3–5 minutes) to be given at each test administrator’s discretion. Also, schools may consider providing designated accessibility features (DFs), which are available to all students, such as DF3 (“Frequent brief supervised breaks”), particularly for younger students.

It is important for all testing to occur during regular school days and to begin at the start of the regular school day, to ensure equivalent testing conditions in schools across the state and to ensure that all students, including students with disabilities and EL students, are afforded an equal opportunity to benefit from untimed tests.

Grades 3–8

MCAS Subject Area Test	Number of Sessions	Recommended Testing Times
Grades 3–8 ELA	2 sessions	<i>(updated for 2019)</i> 2 to 2 ½ hours per session
Grades 3–8 Mathematics	2 sessions	1 ½ hours per session
Grades 5 and 8 STE	2 sessions	<i>(updated for 2019)</i> 1 ¼ hours per session

Grade 10/High School

MCAS Subject Area Test	Number of Sessions	Recommended Testing Times
Grade 10 ELA	2 sessions	<i>(updated for 2019)</i> 2 ½ hours per session
Grade 10 Mathematics	2 sessions	<i>(updated for 2019)</i> 1 ½ to 2 hours per session
Operational High School STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, and Technology/Engineering)	2 sessions	1 hour per session
Biology Field Test*	1 session	45 minutes per session
Introductory Physics Field Test*	1 session	45 minutes per session

* All grade 9 students taking the operational high school Biology or Introductory Physics test are expected to take the field test in the same subject, with the exception of students who require certain accommodations. The participation of students in grade 10 is optional/at principals’ discretion.