

**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines  
MCAS, PARCC, Alternate Assessment, and ACCESS for ELLs**

		Date/Time <sup>1</sup>
<b>November 2015 MCAS ELA and Mathematics Retests</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	September 8–16
	Receive test materials	October 28
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	October 28–November 2, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	ELA Composition Sessions A and B	November 4
	ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2	November 5
	ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3	November 6
	Mathematics Session 1	November 9
	Mathematics Session 2	November 10
	Last date for make-up testing	November 13 <sup>2</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	November 16, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	November 17
<b>2016 ACCESS for ELLs Test (including the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs)</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	October 26–November 13
	Receive test materials	January 4
	Order additional materials, if necessary	January 4–6
<i>Test Administration</i>	ACCESS for ELLs test sessions	January 7–February 10 <sup>3</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Schedule UPS pickup	February 11
	Deadline for UPS pickup	February 12
<b>February 2016 MCAS High School Biology Test</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	October 26–30
	Receive test materials	January 25
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	January 25–28, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	Biology Session 1	February 1
	Biology Session 2	February 2
	Last date for make-up testing	February 4 <sup>4</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	February 5, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	February 8

<sup>1</sup> Individual test sessions are designed to be completed in 45 minutes for ELA Composition and ELA Reading Comprehension, and 60 minutes for Mathematics and February Biology. Refer to the *Principal's Administration Manual* for more information, including participation guidelines and the policy for make-up testing.

<sup>2</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed November 16.

<sup>3</sup> ACCESS for ELLs tests in 2016 for **grades 1–12** will be administered online, with a paper alternative, for each of the following areas: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. The administration of the **kindergarten** test and the **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs** test will remain the same as in 2015. More information will be posted on our [website](#) when available.

<sup>4</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed February 5.

**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines *continued***

		Date/Time <sup>5</sup>
<b>March 2016 MCAS ELA and Mathematics Retests</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	January 4–15
	Receive test materials	February 24
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	February 24–29, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	ELA Composition Sessions A and B	March 2
	ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2	March 3
	ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3	March 4
	Mathematics Session 1	March 7
	Mathematics Session 2	March 8
	Last date for make-up testing	March 9 <sup>6</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	March 10, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	March 11
<b>2016 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt): Grades 3–12</b>		
	Order materials	January 4–15
	Receive MCAS-Alt materials	February 22
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	February 22–March 11, 12:00 p.m.
	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	March 31, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	April 1

<sup>5</sup> Individual test sessions are designed to be completed in 45 minutes for ELA Composition and ELA Reading Comprehension and 60 minutes for Mathematics. Refer to the *Principal's Administration Manual* for more information, including participation guidelines and the policy for make-up testing.

<sup>6</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed March 10.

**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines *continued***

		Date/Time <sup>7</sup>
<b>March–April 2016 MCAS Tests (Grades 3–8 English Language Arts)<sup>8</sup> for districts administering MCAS in grades 3–8 for ELA and Mathematics</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	January 4–15
	Receive test materials	March 21
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	March 21–24, 12:00 p.m.
	English Language Arts test sessions	March 28–April 12 <sup>9</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	April 13, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	April 14 (April 6: Early pickup)
<b>March–April 2016 MCAS Tests (Grade 10 English Language Arts Composition and Reading Comprehension)</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	January 4–15
	Receive test materials	March 14 (grade 10)
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	March 14–18, 12:00 p.m. (March 29: Deadline for ordering additional materials for the ELA Composition Make-Up)
	ELA Composition Sessions A and B	March 22
<i>Test Administration</i>	ELA Composition Make-Up Sessions A and B	March 31
	ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2	March 23
	ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3	March 24
	Last date for make-up testing	April 5 <sup>10</sup>
	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	April 6, 3:00 p.m.
<i>After Testing</i>	Deadline for UPS pickup	April 7 (March 30: Early/automatic pickup)

<sup>7</sup> The number of sessions for the grade 10 ELA Composition and Reading Comprehension tests is noted in the table above, and individual test sessions for grade 10 are designed to be completed in 45 minutes for the ELA Composition and for ELA Reading Comprehension. The grades 3–8 English Language Arts tests consist of two sessions. Session 1 is designed to be completed in 60 minutes. **New for 2016**, Session 2 contains two sections, 2A and 2B. Session 2A is designed to be completed in 35 minutes, and Session 2B is a 60-minute timed section. Refer to the appropriate *Principal's Administration Manual* for more information, including participation guidelines, the prescribed order for administering each grade's tests, and the policy for make-up testing.

<sup>8</sup> MCAS ELA tests in grades 3–8 will be supplemented with a small number of PARCC items, and one of the PARCC items will require students to write in response to text. Because of this change for ELA, the Department has eliminated the ELA Composition in grades 4 and 7 in spring 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Make-up testing for students in grades 3–8 with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed April 13.

<sup>10</sup> Make-up testing for grade 10 students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed April 6.

**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines *continued***

		Date/Time <sup>11</sup>
<b>May 2016 MCAS Tests (Grades 3–8 Mathematics and Science and Technology/Engineering)<sup>12</sup> for districts administering MCAS in grades 3–8 for ELA and Mathematics</b>		
<b>Note: All districts (including PARCC districts) must administer MCAS STE tests in grades 5 and 8.</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	January 4–15
	Receive test materials	April 25
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	April 25–May 5, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	Mathematics test sessions	May 9–24 <sup>13</sup>
	Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) test sessions	May 10–24 <sup>13</sup> (grades 5 and 8)
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	May 25, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	May 26 (May 20: Early pickup)
<b>May 2016 MCAS Tests (Grade 10 Mathematics)</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	January 4–15
	Receive test materials	May 3
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	May 3–13, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	Mathematics Session 1	May 17 <sup>11, 14</sup>
	Mathematics Session 2	May 18 <sup>11, 14</sup>
	Last day for make-up testing	May 24 <sup>15</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	May 25, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	May 26 (May 20: Early/automatic pickup)

<sup>11</sup> The number of sessions for the grade 10 Mathematics test is noted in the table above, and individual test sessions for grade 10 are designed to be completed in 60 minutes. Each test for grades 5 and 8 STE has two separate sessions, and each is designed to be completed in 45 minutes. Each test for grades 3–8 Mathematics has two separate sessions. **New for 2016:** test sessions for grade 3 Mathematics are designed to be completed in 50 minutes per session, and test sessions for grades 4–8 Mathematics are designed to be completed in 55 minutes per session. Refer to the appropriate *Principal's Administration Manual* for more information, including participation guidelines, the prescribed order for administering each grade's tests, and the policy for make-up testing.

<sup>12</sup> Each MCAS test in grades 3–8 Mathematics will be supplemented with a small number of PARCC items.

<sup>13</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed May 25.

<sup>14</sup> Advanced Placement (AP) exams were not scheduled when the MCAS test schedule was developed. For spring 2016, tenth graders participating in AP exams scheduled for the same dates as MCAS tests may either participate in the scheduled MCAS test session when finished with the AP exam, or participate in a make-up session as soon after the regularly administered session as possible. Principals of schools who need a different solution may contact the Department at [mcas@doe.mass.edu](mailto:mcas@doe.mass.edu) to request an alternative testing schedule.

<sup>15</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed May 25.

**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines *continued***

		Date/Time <sup>16</sup>
<b>June 2016 High School STE MCAS Tests</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Order test materials	March 7–11
	Receive test materials	May 18
	Complete PCPA (Materials Received section) Report packing discrepancies, if necessary Order additional materials, if necessary	May 18–27, 12:00 p.m.
<i>Test Administration</i>	STE Session 1 (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, Technology/Engineering)	June 1
	STE Session 2	June 2
	Last day for make-up testing	June 6 <sup>17</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete PCPA Schedule UPS pickup	June 7, 3:00 p.m.
	Deadline for UPS pickup	June 8

<sup>16</sup> Individual test sessions are designed to be completed in 60 minutes for high school STE. Refer to the appropriate *Principal's Administration Manual* for more information, including participation guidelines and the policy for make-up testing.

<sup>17</sup> Make-up testing for students with extraordinary circumstances (i.e., students not able to participate in regularly scheduled sessions or make-up sessions) may be completed June 7.



**2015–2016 Statewide Testing Schedule  
and Administration Deadlines *continued***

		Date/Time <sup>18</sup>
<b>2016 PARCC Assessment (Grades 3–8 ELA/L and Mathematics)<sup>19</sup> for Schools Doing Computer-based Testing (CBT) in districts administering PARCC in grades 3–8 for ELA and Mathematics</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Receive test materials	April 11
	Order additional materials, if necessary	April 11–May 13 <sup>20</sup>
	Install ProctorCaching software (recommended)	8–12 weeks before your school’s testing window
	Conduct Infrastructure Trials (recommended)	At least 4–6 weeks before your school’s testing window
<i>Test Administration</i>	PARCC test sessions for schools doing CBT	April 25–June 6 <sup>21</sup>
<i>After Testing</i>	Complete Post-Test Certification Form	June 7
<b>2016 PARCC Assessment (Grades 3–8 ELA/L and Mathematics)<sup>19</sup> for Schools Doing Paper-based Testing (PBT) in districts administering PARCC in grades 3–8 for ELA and Mathematics</b>		
<i>Before Testing</i>	Receive test materials	April 11
	Order additional materials, if necessary	April 11–May 13 <sup>20</sup> (May 27: Deadline for return material additional orders – e.g., return labels, boxes)
<i>Test Administration</i>	PARCC test sessions for schools doing PBT	April 25–May 27
<i>After Testing</i>	Schedule UPS pickup	June 2
	Deadline for UPS pickup	June 3
	Complete Post-Test Certification Form	June 7

<sup>18</sup> The [spring 2016 PARCC testing window and testing times](#) are different from spring 2015: the two windows – the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End of Year (EOY) – have been consolidated into one, and the number of testing units has been reduced.

Note that PARCC test sessions (“units”) are strictly timed. In addition to the unit testing times below, schools should also plan for another 20–30 minutes (“administration time”) which includes reading instructions to students, answering their questions, distributing test materials, closing units (for CBT), and collecting test materials. More information on the PARCC testing time policies is [posted online](#).

The PARCC **ELA/L test** has three separate units for each grade. Individual test units for PARCC are timed and must be completed according to the times listed below.

- Grade 3: *Unit 1*: 90 minutes; *Unit 2*: 75 minutes; *Unit 3*: 90 minutes
- Grades 4–5: *Units 1, 2, and 3*: 90 minutes each
- Grades 6–8: *Unit 1*: 110 minutes; *Unit 2*: 110 minutes; *Unit 3*: 90 minutes

The PARCC **Mathematics test** has four separate units for grades 3–5, and three separate units for grades 6–8. Individual test units for PARCC are timed and must be completed according to the times listed below. Please note, the total unit testing time for Unit 1 for mathematics in grade 7 includes the time for both non-calculator and calculator sections.

- Grades 3–5: *Units 1, 2, 3, and 4*: 60 minutes each
- Grades 6–8: *Units 1, 2, and 3*: 80 minutes each
- Grade 8 Algebra I (optional for grade 8 instead of grade 8 Mathematics): *Units 1, 2, and 3*: 90 minutes each

Even though there is no prescribed order of testing the subject areas, the Department recommends scheduling ELA/L before Mathematics.

<sup>19</sup> PARCC testing in high school will not be offered in spring 2016.

<sup>20</sup> Additional orders **must be approved** by the principal, test coordinator, superintendent, or another individual with the “Approve Additional Order Add-on Role” in PearsonAccess Next. Schools should allow a **period of 5 days** from the time of approval for materials to arrive.

<sup>21</sup> CBT schools that have any students doing paper-based testing for accommodations/accessibility reasons must complete this paper-based testing by the end of the PBT testing window (May 27).