

Curriculum Corner

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MCAS 2014

On September 19, 2014, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released results for the spring test administration. Individual student results will be mailed from each school today. A link to the aggregate results can be found on the district web page at [District MCAS Results](#).

Through a complicated formula, school districts receive a rating placing them at a particular level of performance. Level 5 districts are considered under-performing and receive state intervention while Level 1 districts are meeting all of the expected performance and improvement requirements. All three of our MCAS tested schools received Level 1 ratings, rating us a Level 1 district. Only 19% of school districts are currently in this category. The formal details behind this rating will be released in our school and district report cards later this fall.

The future of the MCAS in Massachusetts is uncertain. For the current 2014-2015 school year, districts could choose between remaining with the MCAS assessment or moving to the newly developed [PARCC](#) test. The PARCC test is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and will be administered to students across thirteen states and includes electronic assessments. We participated in pilot testing last spring as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Massachusetts Board of Education voted to remain with MCAS through the class of 2019 (current students in grade 8) as a determination of competency for graduation. Given this and the wish to have results we could compare annually, Dr. Tantillo recommended to the Duxbury School Committee that MCAS remain in place for this school year. The Committee concurred with this recommendation and voted to maintain MCAS as our assessment for this school year.

This spring, the Massachusetts Board of Education will decide whether to adopt PARCC as the state's mandated assessment system or remain with MCAS. We will continue to closely follow updates and share information as it is available.

Curriculum and
Assessment in
Massachusetts

1998-1996

Massachusetts
Educational Assessment
Program (MEAP) testing
administered resulting in
aggregate scores only

1993 Education Reform

Act established the
Massachusetts
Comprehensive
Assessment System
(MCAS) providing
individual scores as well
as a graduation
requirements to assess
newly developed state
curriculum frameworks

2001 No Child Left

Behind passed at the
federal level increasing
accountability and
expectations for student
performance

2009 Race to the Top

also at the federal level
developed Common
Core State Standards and
accompanying
assessments including
the Partnership for
Assessment for
Readiness for College
and Careers (PARCC)