



Duxbury Public Schools

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Dear Duxbury Families:

In November, the Massachusetts Board of Education followed the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education to adopt a new state assessment system entitled MCAS 2.0. In 2017, students in grades 3-8 across the Commonwealth will participate in the new test for math and English Language Arts. High school and science tests remain the same, at least through the 2018 test season.

During the transition, the state again afforded districts the option to choose between the traditional MCAS and the assessment designed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). As you are aware, we remained with the traditional MCAS system during the spring of 2015 test administration.

Following a great deal of research, dialogue and subsequent vote by the School Committee, this spring, we will be moving to the PARCC assessment in grades 3-8 for both math and English Language Arts. The new MCAS 2.0 will draw from the PARCC test items and reflect the nature of the PARCC questions. PARCC allows us the opportunity for online testing that will soon be a mandate. By providing exposure to the new assessment, the district also aligns the mandated assessment with curriculum changes such as the new math program at the elementary schools.

While the high school MCAS tests will continue to determine eligibility for graduation, PARCC results are not included in the accountability formulas. As a result, we will establish a new baseline while in a true learning environment. Both parents and students should expect a trial atmosphere where we begin to understand how the structures work but not emphasize the outcomes. A relaxed, comfortable climate will ease us into the new processes without creating anxiety or pressure on our children.

We will continue to provide more information to the Alden and Middle School communities well in advance of the administration dates in late April.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie Hunter
Assistant Superintendent