

# WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNEX A  
gb #4-298  
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To: Melinda Boone, Superintendent  
From: David Perda, Chief Research and Accountability Officer  
Date: October 27, 2015  
Re: Time on testing

This past weekend, President Barack Obama released a Testing Action Plan that highlights effective approaches to student assessment for states and school districts.

Among other recommendations pertaining to the assessment of students, the action plan calls for states and districts to be mindful of "over-testing." Specifically, it advises states and districts to limit the percentage of instructional time that students spend taking *statewide* standardized assessments to no more than two percent of instructional time.

Attached are two documents that summarize the amount of time students sit for *both* state and district-based tests. The two documents differ in that one pertains to Grade 3-8 students who might take the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in 2015-16 while the other pertains to Grade 3-8 students might take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. As you know, the Massachusetts Board of Education is expected to determine which of the two tests Grade 3-8 students will take in 2015-16 on November 17. In either scenario, the analyses show that students in the Worcester Public Schools are spending less than two percent of instructional time on standardized tests, even when district-based tests are included in the calculations.

Please let me know if you have questions or need clarification.

Worcester Public Schools: Time On Testing 2015-16  
(Including MCAS Grades 3-8)

Grade Level	Test	Maximum Expected Duration per Administration	Required Participation during Year	Total Time per Student
K	Early Screening Inventory (ESI)	20 minutes	1	20 minutes
Pre-K, K	Work Sampling	N/A (observation/evidence based)	2	N/A
K	DIBELS Next	4 minutes	3	12 minutes
1	DIBELS Next	4 minutes	3 (spring = supplementary)	12 minutes
1-2	Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark	45 minutes	3	135 minutes
3-9	MAP	90 minutes (Math & Reading combined)	3 (spring ELA & Math optional; winter ELA optional)	270 minutes
K-12	ACCESS for ELLs*	Listening: Up to 40 minutes Reading: Up to 35 minutes Speaking: Up to 30 minutes Writing: Up to 65 minutes	1	170 minutes
4, 7, 10	MCAS ELA Composition	90 minutes (2 45-minute sessions)	1	90 minutes
3-8	MCAS ELA Reading Comprehension	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
10	MCAS ELA Reading Comprehension	135 minutes (3 45-minute sessions)	1	135 minutes
3-6	MCAS Mathematics	90 minutes (2 45-minute sessions)	1	90 minutes
7-8	MCAS Mathematics	100 minutes (2 50 minute sessions)	1	100 minutes
5, 8	MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering	90 minutes (2 45-minute sessions)	1	90 minutes
10	MCAS Mathematics	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
9-12	MCAS HS Science and Technology/Engineering	120 minutes(2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
11-12	MCAS ELA Retest**	220 minutes (5 45-minute sessions)	1	220 minutes
11-12	MCAS Mathematics Retest**	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
11-12	EPP for Mathematics**	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
3-12	MCAS Alt Assessment**	N/A (portfolio based)	1	N/A
9-12	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**	Varies	Varies	Varies
10-11	PSAT	130 minutes (CR, Math, and Writing combined)	1	130 minutes
11-12	SAT***	225 minutes (sections combined)	n/a	225

Worcester Public Schools: Time On Testing 2015-16  
(Including MCAS Grades 3-8)

11-12	SAT Subject Tests***	60 minutes	n/a	60 minutes
11-12	ACT***	205 minutes (sections combined)	n/a	205 minutes

Time On Testing: Including ACCESS for ELLs				
Grade Level	Number of Assessments Included In Calculation	Total (Max) Amount of Time Spent on Assessments		% Instructional Time^
Pre-K	1	0 minutes	Work Sampling is observation/evidence based.	0.0
K	4	202 minutes		0.4
1	3	317 minutes		0.6
2	2	305 minutes		0.6
3	3	650 minutes		1.2
4	4	740 minutes		1.4
5	4	740 minutes		1.4
6	3	650 minutes		1.2
7	4	750 minutes		1.3
8	4	750 minutes		1.3
9	2	560 minutes	High School STE MCAS is counted in each grade, 9-12, though it is only administered once (typically in grade 9). To remove this test from calculations, subtract 120 min. from the total time.	0.9
10	5	765 minutes		1.3
11	2	420 minutes		0.7
12	1	290 minutes		0.5

\*ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is administered to all ELL students in grade K-12 until language proficiency is reached, at which time the student no longer participates in the assessment.

\*\* Assessment given as a population-specific qualifying exam, diagnostic test or as a retest; not counted in totals.

\*\*\* Assessment not required/not provided by the district or state; not counted in totals

^ Based on total instruction time of 900 hours at the elementary grade levels; 990 hours at the secondary grade levels.

Worcester Public Schools: Time On Testing, 2015-16  
(Including PARCC Grades 3-8)

Grade Level	Test	Average Expected Duration per Administration	Required Participation during Year	Total Time per Student
K	Early Screening Inventory (ESI)	20 minutes	1	20 minutes
Pre-K, K	Work Sampling	N/A (observation/evidence based)	2	N/A
K	DIBELS Next	4 minutes	3	12 minutes
1	DIBELS Next	4 minutes	3 (spring = supplementary)	12 minutes
1-2	Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark	45 minutes	3	135 minutes
3-9	MAP	90 minutes (Math & Reading combined)	3 (spring = optional)	270 minutes
K-12	ACCESS for ELLs*	Listening: Up to 40 minutes Reading: Up to 35 minutes Speaking: Up to 30 minutes Writing: Up to 65 minutes	1	170 minutes
3-5	PARCC Mathematics	240 minutes (units combined)	1	240 minutes
6, 8	PARCC Mathematics	240 minutes (units combined)	1	240 minutes
7	PARCC Mathematics	240 minutes (units combined)	1	240 minutes
3	PARCC ELA/Literacy	255 minutes (units combined)	1	255 minutes
4, 5	PARCC ELA/Literacy	270 minutes (units combined)	1	270 minutes
6-8	PARCC ELA/Literacy	310 minutes (units combined)	1	310 minutes
5, 8	MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering	90 minutes (2 45-minute sessions)	1	90 minutes
9-12	MCAS HS Science and Technology/Engineering	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
10	MCAS ELA Reading Comprehension	135 minutes (3 45-minute sessions)	1	135 minutes
10	MCAS Mathematics	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
11-12	MCAS ELA Retest**	220 minutes (5 45-minute sessions)	1	220 minutes
11-12	MCAS Mathematics Retest**	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
11-12	EPP for Mathematics**	120 minutes (2 60-minute sessions)	1	120 minutes
3-12	MCAS Alt Assessment**	N/A (portfolio based)	1	N/A
9-12	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**	Varies	Varies	Varies
10-11	PSAT	130 minutes (CR, Math, and Writing combined)	1	130 minutes

Worcester Public Schools: Time On Testing, 2015-16  
(Including PARCC Grades 3-8)

11-12	SAT***	225 minutes (sections combined)	n/a	225 minutes
11-12	SAT Subject Tests***	60 minutes	n/a	60 minutes
11-12	ACT***	205 minutes (sections combined)	n/a	205 minutes

Time On Testing: Including ACCESS for ELLs				
Grade Level	Number of Assessments During One Year	Total Amount of Time Spent on Assessments		% Instructional Time^
Pre-K	1	0 minutes	Work Sampling is observation/evidence based.	0.0
K	4	202 minutes		0.4
1	3	317 minutes		0.6
2	2	305 minutes		0.6
3	4	935 minutes		1.7
4	4	950 minutes		1.6
5	5	1040 minutes		1.9
6	4	990 minutes		1.8
7	4	990 minutes		1.7
8	5	910 minutes		1.5
9	3	560 minutes	High School STE MCAS is counted in each grade, 9-12, though it is only administered once (typically in grade 9). To remove this test from calculations, subtract 120 min. from the total time.	0.9
10	5	675 minutes		1.1
11	3	420 minutes		0.7
12	2	290 minutes		0.5

\*ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is administered to all ELL students in grades K-12 until language proficiency is reached, at which time the student no longer participates in the assessment.

\*\* Assessment given as a population-specific diagnostic test or as a retest; not counted in totals.

\*\*\* Assessment not required/not provided by the district or state; not counted in totals

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