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Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

Update on Extensions and Alternate Schedules for Spring 2015 Testing

To: Superintendents, Principals, and Directors of Charter Schools, Approved Private Special Education Schools, Educational Collaboratives, Institutional Settings, and Adult/External Diploma Programs

Copy: MCAS and PARCC Test Coordinators

From: Elizabeth Davis, Associate Commissioner of Student Assessment

Date: February 19, 2015

In follow-up to the [Commissioner's recent communication](#) on flexibility for scheduling the statewide tests, I am pleased to provide you with information regarding extensions (provided to all districts) and alternate testing schedules (available to districts that submit a request by February 26) for MCAS, PARCC, and MCAS-Alt in spring 2015. Please note that the dates for the March retest administration will remain the same. The guidelines below summarize the options being offered.

1. Extensions to Certain MCAS and PARCC Testing Windows

The Department is **extending the testing windows and return deadlines for certain spring test administrations to all districts**, as shown below. Schools must return materials by the new deadlines, but are encouraged to return materials as soon as they are finished testing. An updated calendar with all relevant dates will be posted to the Department's website early next week.

		Regular Testing Window	Extended Testing Window
<i>Spring 2015 MCAS and MCAS Alternate Assessment</i>			
Grades 3-8 ELA Reading Comprehension Tests		March 23-April 6 (UPS pickup deadline: April 8)	March 23-April 13 (UPS pickup deadline: April 15)
Grades 3-8 Mathematics and STE Tests		May 4-19 (UPS pickup deadline: May 21)	May 4-26 (UPS pickup deadline: May 28)
MCAS-Alt		UPS pickup deadline: April 2	UPS pickup deadline: April 8
<i>Spring 2015 PARCC</i>			
For schools doing computer-based testing	Performance-based assessment (PBA)	March 16-April 13	March 16-April 17
	End-of-year (EOY)	May 4-29	May 4-June 5
For schools doing paper-based testing	PBA	March 23-April 6	March 23-April 13 (UPS pickup deadline: April 17)
	EOY	May 11-22	May 11-May 29 (UPS pickup deadline: June 5)

2. Alternate Schedules for MCAS Tests with Prescribed Dates

(The decision to use an alternate schedule must be submitted to the Department by Thursday, February 26.)

The Department will offer alternate schedules, including extensions to the make-up periods, for MCAS tests with **prescribed dates**, as shown in the table below.

Test	Regular Administration Date	Alternate Administration Date	Alternate UPS pickup deadline
ELA Composition (Grades 4, 7, and 10)	March 24	April 2	April 15
ELA Composition Make-Up (Grades 4, 7, and 10)	April 2	April 8	

Grade 10 ELA Reading Comprehension, Sessions 1 and 2	March 25	March 31	
Grade 10 ELA Reading Comprehension, Session 3	March 26	April 1	
Grade 10 Mathematics, Session 1	May 12	May 19	May 28
Grade 10 Mathematics, Session 2	May 13	May 20	
High School STE, Session 1	June 2	June 8	June 15
High School STE, Session 2	June 3	June 9	

For planning purposes, districts **must inform the Department** if they wish to use the alternate schedule. District superintendents will receive a password and instructions under separate cover for submitting this decision. **The district's decision must be submitted no later than Thursday, February 26, at 5:00 p.m.**

If a district wishes to use this alternate schedule, **all the schools in the district** must follow the alternate schedule. A district may choose, though, to use the regular schedule for one content area and the alternate schedule for another content area (e.g., a district may choose to use the alternate schedule for the grade 10 Mathematics tests but not the June high school STE tests).

Please communicate this information to all relevant staff. If you have any questions, please contact Student Assessment Services at 781-338-3625 or by email at mcas@doe.mass.edu or parcc@doe.mass.edu.

Thank you.

Last Updated: February 19, 2015