



Peabody Public Schools

21 Johnson Street, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

Telephone: 978.536.6500

Fax: 978.536.6504

Joseph A. Mastrocola
Superintendent of Schools

Cara E. Murtagh
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

To: Peabody School Committee

From: Joseph A. Mastrocola

Re: PARCC / MCAS selection

Date: May 13, 2014

Districts will have the choice to administer either PARCC or MCAS tests in ELA and Mathematics for students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. The timeline for making the decision is as follows:

- Wednesday, May 14: District Superintendents receive email with instructions and a pass code for registering the district's choice through an online tool.
- Mid to late May: Information sessions to assist in decision making
- May 14-June 30: District Superintendent register early decisions
- Monday June 30, 12:00 p.m.: deadline for early submission
- Wednesday, October 1: Deadline for decision, pending availability
(Instructions will be forthcoming on registering a decision in October)

As Superintendent, I am required to submit the district's intention by the dates listed above.

After multiple discussions with the leadership team, at this time, our selection will be to continue with MCAS for the spring of 2015.

Some of our discussion points include:

- PARCC allows for districts to hold harmless for accountability measures. We feel that as education leaders we welcome the responsibility of accountability. MCAS provides that accountability
- MCAS provides a level of correlation to the curriculum alignment that our district has worked hard at over the past two years.
- Our use of data to drive instructional decision making is better suited with the MCAS exam.
- Under state statute, MCAS is a requirement for high school graduation

Additionally, we would like to have our teaching staff give some feedback.

However, we reserve the right to change our intention by October 1.

I will keep you abreast of any new issues that arise.

Joe Mastrocola
Superintendent of Schools