

# Understanding the Spring 2013 MCAS Tests Parent/Guardian Report

Presented by:

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# The Parent/Guardian Reports: Grades 3-8, 10 and Grade 9 Science

- Designed to assist parents in reviewing their children's MCAS results
- Designed to assist parents in understanding how MCAS scores are reported
- Translated versions are available in
  - Arabic
  - Cape Verdean
  - Chinese (traditional)
  - Haitian Creole
  - Khmer
  - Korean
  - Portuguese
  - Russian
  - Spanish
  - Vietnamese

# The Parent/Guardian Report: Grades 3-8, 10

# Page 1.

- **There are 3 sections:**
  - Student information
  - A greeting from Mitchell Chester- Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
  - What is MCAS and how are test results used?

# Page 1 Section 1

## Student Information



# Spring 2013 MCAS Tests Parent/Guardian Report

Name:

School:

District:

SASID:

Grade:

Date of Birth:

# Page 1 Section 2

## A Greeting from the Commissioner of the DESE

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

This *Parent/Guardian Report* provides your child's results on the 2013 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. For each test that your child took in spring 2013, the report shows your child's **Achievement Level** (*Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, or Warning/Failing*). In addition, each child who participated in the English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics tests in grades 4–8 or 10 in 2013, and who also took the prior MCAS test in that subject, receives a **Student Growth Percentile** (SGP) score. The SGP shows how your child's progress compares to the progress of other students in the same grade statewide who earned similar MCAS scores in previous years. The report also provides information regarding how your child's performance compares to school, district, and state performance; how your child performed in different sub-content areas of the test(s); and how your child did on individual test questions.

If you have questions about your child's performance, I encourage you to meet with your child's teacher(s) to discuss the results and identify ways that you can partner with your school to support your child's education.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

# Page 1 Section 3

## What is MCAS?

### **What is MCAS and how are test results used?**

MCAS is the Commonwealth's standards-based student assessment program. MCAS has the following primary purposes:

- To evaluate student, school, and district performance according to the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks learning standards
- To determine whether a student has met the state requirements for the Competency Determination (i.e., whether a student is eligible for a high school diploma)
- To hold schools and districts accountable for making progress toward improvement targets set by the state plan under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- To inform and improve curriculum and instruction
- At the high school level, to determine whether your child meets one of the eligibility requirements for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award

### **Where can you find more information?**

[www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents)

# Page 2 Section 1

## Student Achievement Level (example)

English Language Arts
Performance Level: <b><i>Advanced</i></b> Your child has met the MCAS graduation requirement in this subject.
Score: <b>264</b>
Growth Percentile: <b>26.0</b>

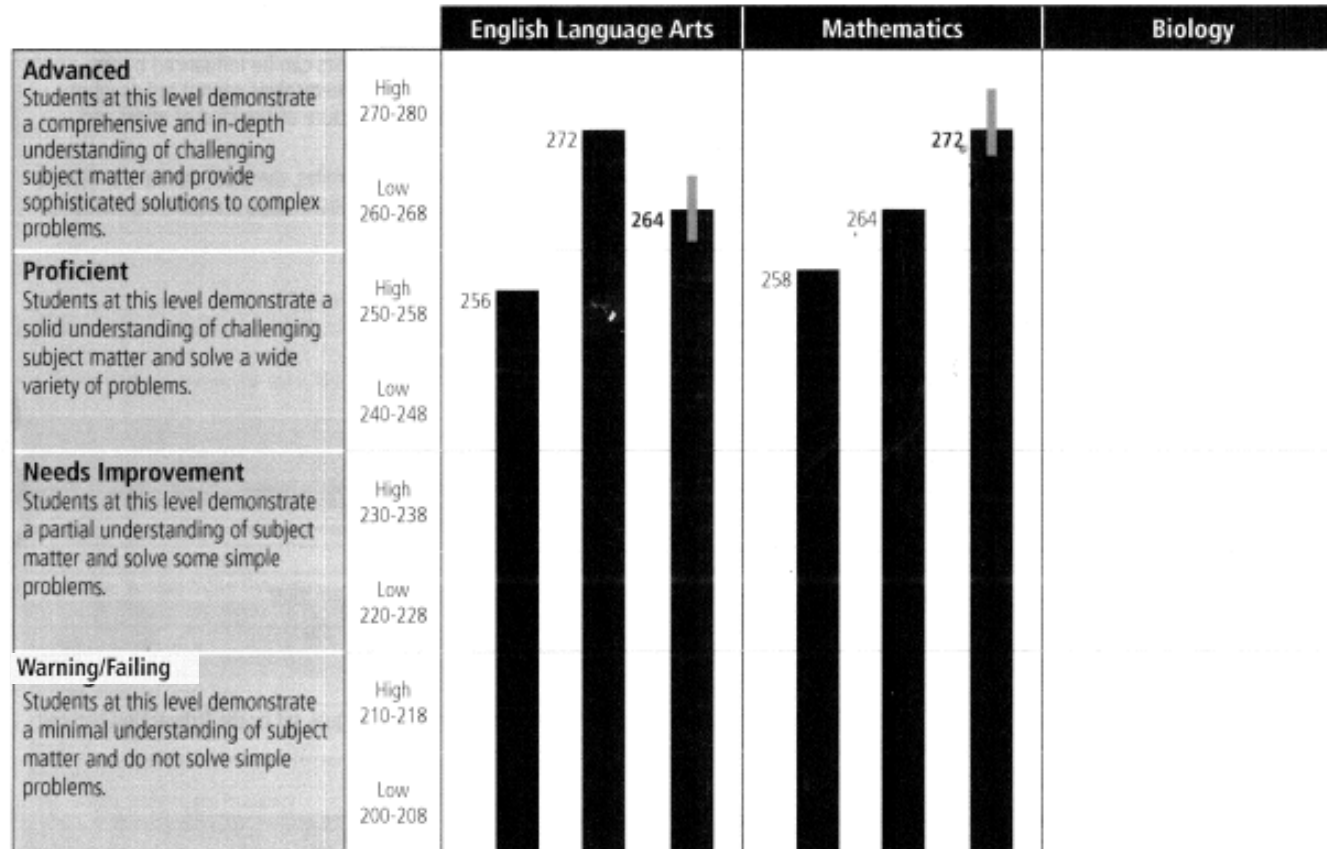
Mathematics
Performance Level: <b><i>Advanced</i></b> Your child has met the MCAS graduation requirement in this subject.
Score: <b>272</b>
Growth Percentile: <b>73.0</b>

Biology
Performance Level: <b><i>Previously Passed</i></b> Your child has met the MCAS graduation requirement in this subject.
Score:
Growth Percentile:

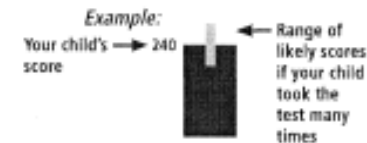


# Page 2 Section 2

## Student Scores (example)



In the figure above, the top of the black bar indicates your child's score on each test. The small gray bar, included for Spring 2013 only, shows the range of likely scores your child would receive if he or she took the test multiple times.



# Page 3.

**There are 2 sections:**

- **Student achievement compared to school, district, and state achievement**
- **Student Growth Percentile compared to students who received similar MCAS score in the school, district, and state**

# Page 3 Section 1

## Student Achievement Comparison

### Your child's achievement compared to school, district, and state achievement

This section shows your child's achievement in each subject. It also shows the percentage of students at each achievement level in your child's school, district, and the state. The check (✓) indicates your child's achievement level. Percentages are not shown if fewer than 10 students took the test.

#### English Language Arts

Performance Level	Your Child	School	District	State
Advanced	✓	15%	13%	26%
Proficient		53%	53%	52%
Needs Improvement		23%	27%	18%
Failing		9%	8%	4%
		68%	66%	78%

#### Mathematics

Performance Level	Your Child	School	District	State
Advanced	✓	43%	33%	50%
Proficient		25%	28%	25%
Needs Improvement		21%	26%	17%
Failing		11%	13%	7%
		68%	61%	75%

#### Science and Technology/Engineering

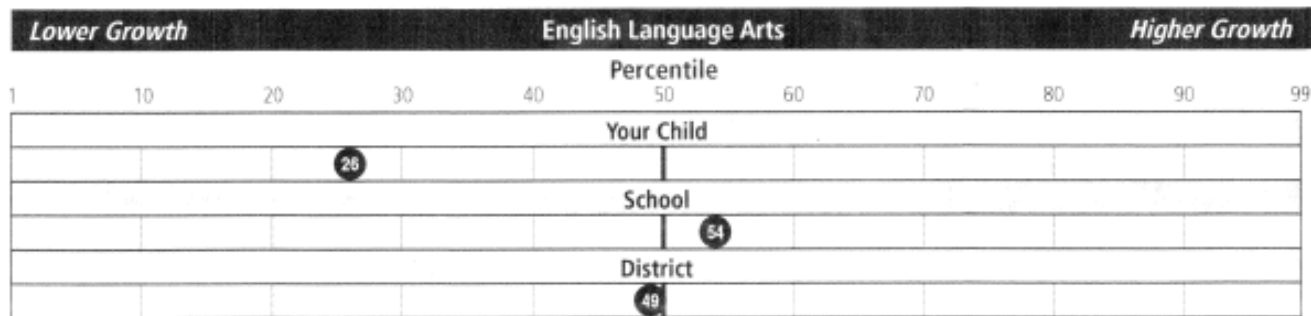
Performance Level	Your Child	School	District	State
Advanced	✓	12%	9%	18%
Proficient		42%	38%	47%
Needs Improvement		27%	34%	28%
Failing		18%	19%	8%
		54%	47%	65%

# Page 3 Section 2

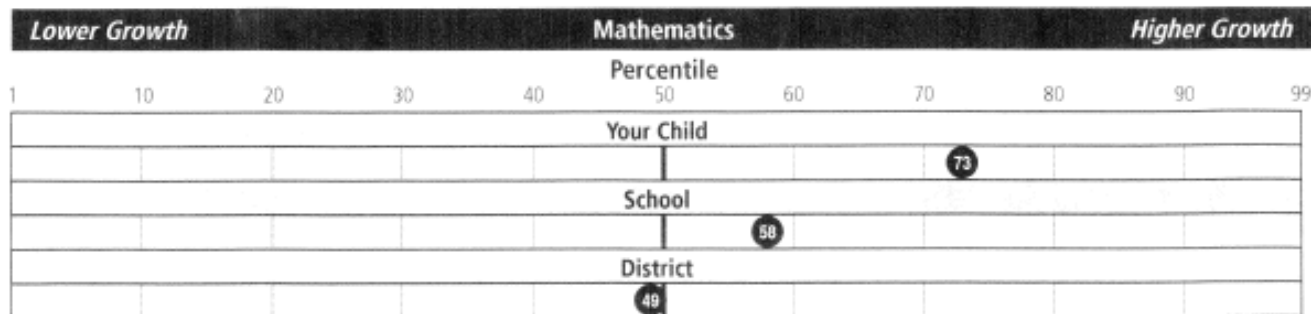
## Student Growth Comparison

### Student Growth Percentiles

Your child's Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) in ELA and/or Mathematics is shown below. SGPs estimate your child's progress compared to the progress of other students across the state with a history of similar MCAS scores. Growth percentiles range from 1 to 99. A higher SGP means that the student progressed at a higher rate than other students with similar test scores, while a lower SGP means the student progressed at a lower rate than other students with similar test scores. The rows below your child's SGP show the growth of students at your child's school and district, as compared to the growth of students at other schools and districts across the state with similar MCAS score histories. The gray bars on either side of your child's percentile(s) show the range of likely growth scores your child would receive if he or she took the test many times.



▶ Your child's 2010 English Language Arts MCAS growth percentile is **26.0**. Your child's 2010 English Language Arts MCAS score is **higher** than the scores of **26.0%** of the students in the state who received similar English Language Arts MCAS scores in prior years.



▶ Your child's 2010 Mathematics MCAS growth percentile is **73.0**. Your child's 2010 Mathematics MCAS score is **higher** than the scores of **73.0%** of the students in the state who received similar Mathematics MCAS scores in prior years.

# Page 4.

**There are 2 sections:**

- Student scores in the reporting categories for each test
- Student responses to individual test questions

# Page 4 Section 1

## Student Scores in Reporting categories

### Your child's scores in the reporting categories measured by each test

This section shows the number and percentage of possible points earned by your child in each reporting category. For comparison, you will also find the percentage of possible points earned by students who performed at the low end of the *Proficient* level across the state. This information can give you a general impression of your child's relative strengths and weaknesses.

<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>Reporting Category Code</b>	<b>Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Students Who Performed at the Low End of the <i>Proficient</i> Level</b>
Language	LA	6	6	100%	80%
Reading	LT	32	46	70%	65%
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Reporting Category Code</b>	<b>Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Students Who Performed at the Low End of the <i>Proficient</i> Level</b>
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	OA	11	11	100%	74%
Number and Operations in Base Ten	NT	13	13	100%	66%
Number and Operations-Fractions	NF	11	13	85%	62%
Measurement and Data	MD	9	11	82%	65%
Geometry	GE	5	6	83%	69%
<b>Science and Technology/Engineering</b>	<b>Reporting Category Code</b>	<b>Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Your Child</b>	<b>Percent of Possible Points Earned by Students Who Performed at the Low End of the <i>Proficient</i> Level</b>
Earth and Space Science	ES	14	16	88%	61%
Life Science	LS	13	16	81%	70%
Physical Sciences	PS	11	14	79%	77%
Technology/Engineering	TE	7	8	88%	65%

# Page 4 Section 2

## Results for Individual Test Questions

### How your child did on individual test questions

This section shows how your child did on each test question. In the bottom row (Your Child's Score) for each subject, you will find whether your child gave the correct answer on multiple-choice questions and the number of points earned by your child on other types of questions. Reporting Category codes are given in the table at the bottom of this page. Released test questions are available at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/MCAS/testitems.html>.

English Language Arts																																										
Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
Reporting Category	CT	CC	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LA	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LA	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LA	LA	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LA	LT	LT	LA	LT			
Your Child's Score	7/12	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3/4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3/4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	4/4	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Mathematics																																										
Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Reporting Category	SP	NS	NS	SP	ME	NS	NS	GE	NS	PR	SP	PR	GE	NS	PR	ME	PR	ME	NS	SP	PR	GE	SP	PR	PR	SP	PR	PR	ME	SP	NS	SP	ME	PR	GE	PR	SP	GE	PR	ME	GE	ME
Your Child's Score	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4	✓	0	4/4	4/4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4/4	4/4

Biology																																																
Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45			
Reporting Category	EC	BC	EC	BC	BC	GE	BC	GE	BC	GE	GE	AP	EV	AP	BC	EV	GE	BC	EV	GE	AP	EC	BC	GE	AP	BC	EV	BC	EC	AP	EC	EV	EC	GE	EV	EC	EC	BC	EV	BC	EV	AP	EV	GE	EC			
Your Child's Score																																																

Question Type	Score Codes	
Multiple-choice	✓	Correct answer (1 point earned)
	A, B, C, or D	Incorrect answer on a released question (0 points earned)
	-	Incorrect answer on an unreleased question (0 points earned)
	*	More than one answer (0 points earned)
Short-answer (Mathematics only)	✓	Correct answer (1 point earned)
	0	Incorrect answer (0 points earned)
Short-response (ELA grade 3 only)	x/2	x points earned out of 2
Open-response	x/4	x points earned out of 4
Writing prompt (ELA grades 4, 7, and 10 only)	x/12	x points earned out of 12 for Topic Development (CT)
	x/8	x points earned out of 8 for Standard English Conventions (CC)
All types	blank space	No answer (0 points earned)



# Grade 9 Science Report



# Layout

- **Page 1**
  - Student information
  - A greeting from Mitchell Chester- Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
  - What is MCAS and how are test results used?
- **Page 2**
  - Student Achievement Level and Score
- **Page 3**
  - Student Achievement Comparison

# Page 2

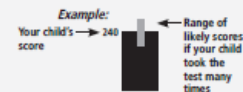
## Your child's Spring 2013 MCAS Tests achievement level and score

This section shows your child's MCAS score and achievement level on the high school Science and Technology/Engineering test your child participated in.

Science and Technology/Engineering
Achievement Level:
Score:

Science and Tech/Eng.		
<b>Advanced</b> Students at this level demonstrate a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of challenging subject matter and provide sophisticated solutions to complex problems.	High 270-280	
	Low 260-268	
<b>Proficient</b> Students at this level demonstrate a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solve a wide variety of problems.	High 250-258	
	Low 240-248	
<b>Needs Improvement</b> Students at this level demonstrate a partial understanding of subject matter and solve some simple problems.	High 230-238	
	Low 220-228	
<b>Failing</b> Students at this level demonstrate a minimal understanding of subject matter and do not solve simple problems.	High 210-218	
	Low 200-208	

In the figure above, the top of the black bar indicates your child's score on each test. The small gray bar shows the range of likely scores your child would receive if he or she took the test multiple times.



## Your child's achievement compared to school, district, and state achievement in grade 9

This section shows your child's achievement in each subject. It also shows the percentage of grade 9 students at each achievement level in your child's school, district, and the state. (These grade 9 results are not used for official school reporting. Your child's grade 9 results will be summarized along with the results of students who take the STE test in grade 10 for the official reporting of High School results.) The check (✓) indicates your child's achievement level. Percentages are not shown if fewer than 10 students took the test.

Science and Technology/Engineering				
Performance Level	Your Child	School	District	State
Advanced				
Proficient				
Needs Improvement				
Failing				

## Your child's scores in the reporting categories measured by each test

This section shows the number and percentage of possible points earned by your child in each reporting category. For comparison, you will also find the percentage of possible points earned by students who performed at the low end of the *Proficient* level across the state. This information can give you a general impression of your child's relative strengths and weaknesses.

Science and Technology/Engineering	Reporting Category Code	Points Earned by Your Child	Possible Points	Percent of Possible Points Earned by Your Child	Percent of Possible Points Earned by Students Who Performed at the Low End of the Proficient Level

## How your child did on individual test questions

This section shows how your child did on each test question. In the bottom row (Your Child's Score), you will find whether your child gave the correct answer on multiple-choice questions and the number of points earned by your child on other types of questions. Reporting Category codes are given in the table above. Released test questions are available at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html).

Science and Technology/Engineering																																																		
Question Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45					
Reporting Category																																																		
Your Child's Score																																																		

Question Type	Score Codes	
Multiple-choice	✓	Correct answer (1 point earned)
	A, B, C, or D	Incorrect answer on a released question (0 points earned)
	*	More than one answer (0 points earned)
Open-response	x/4	x points earned out of 4
All types	blank space	No answer (0 points earned)

# Parent Resources on the DESE Website:

## Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

### Test Questions

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html>

### Parent/Guardian Report Translations

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2012/pgguide/default.html>

### High School Graduation Requirements, Scholarships, and Academic Support Opportunities

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/graduation.html>