



To: Emily Parks, Superintendent
From: Allison Borchers, Assistant Superintendent
Date: November 6, 2020
Re: Student Assessment updates

State Assessments (MCAS, MCAS-Alt and ACCESS)

DESE has indicated that plans are moving forward to administer all MCAS assessments in the coming year for grades 3 - 8 and 10. The spring testing dates have not yet been released, but there is some information available about earlier rounds of MCAS testing:

- Students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 are required to pass the ELA and math MCAS in order to receive the competency determination for a high school diploma. There will be two rounds of tests for 11th graders and 12th graders: one in January and another in May.
- As of the date of this memo, all of our seniors have already passed.
- Juniors have not yet taken the exams, since MCAS was cancelled last spring. The WHS team will be planning for a January administration to make sure every junior is given every available opportunity to pass. In addition, exams for juniors will be used to determine eligibility for the Class of 2022 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.
- Current 9th grade students enrolled in Biology will take the science assessment in February.

ACCESS testing for English language learners is scheduled to take place in January and February.

The MCAS-Alt assessment timeline appears to be similar to other years. The portfolio submission deadline is April 1, 2021.

K - 8 District Assessments

With the support of literacy specialists, teachers are administering assessments in all elementary grades. Results will help identify students in need of classroom based supports or supplemental instruction. Literacy Coordinator Marcia Uretsky has prioritized grade 1 & 2, so that students whose development of early literacy skills have been negatively impacted by the pandemic can get more help.

At the recommendation of the math team, teachers are relying on unit-based pre-assessments when appropriate as well as on-the-spot assessments to identify skill gaps and provide just-in-time review or reteaching of content.

The middle school will be expanding the use of the Renaissance Star assessment tool to include math as well as reading assessments. This will allow teachers in all grades to monitor progress, provide extra classroom based support, and identify students who might need additional intervention support outside of regular class time.