MCAS-Alt “Grade-level” and “Competency” Portfolios
Fall 2018
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Who Should Be Considered for a “Grade-level” or “Competency” Portfolio?

• Any student with a significant disability who:
  o performs classroom work near, at, or above grade-level;
  o cannot demonstrate grade-level knowledge and skills on the MCAS test in that grade and subject, even with accommodations;
  o is attempting to earn a score higher than Progressing on the MCAS-Alt (i.e., either Partially Meeting, Meeting, or Exceeding Expectations; OR Needs Improvement, Proficient, or Advanced)

What is a “Grade-Level” Portfolio (grades 3–8)?

• A collection of grade-level work samples produced by a student who cannot show what they know on the MCAS test
  o Work samples only; no data charts are required.
    o Multiple (2 or more) work samples that together demonstrate all aspects of the required standard.
    o Grade-level Work Description forms must be used.
    o Work samples should each address one standard.
  o Grade-level portfolio requirements have been updated in each subject:
    o ELA—3 standards each in Reading-Literature and Reading-Informational text; plus four (4) writing samples (one in each of three text types, and one selected by student)
    o Mathematics—A total of 10 standards must be documented in the student’s work.
    o STE—A total of 9 standards (at least 3 in each selected strand)
  o Specific ELA, Math, and STE requirements are described in 2019 Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt (pp. 51–57)

What is a High School “Competency” Portfolio?

• A collection of high school work samples to attempt to earn a Competency Determination and meet the MCAS graduation requirements.
  o Work must be comparable to that of a student who scored at least 220* in that subject.
  o or the equivalent of 220 on next-gen ELA and Math tests.
  o Portfolio may be resubmitted each year with additional work, if initial submission does not score at least Needs Improvement or Partially Meeting Expectations.
  o Otherwise, MCAS-Alt is not required after grade 10.
  o Portfolio requirements are described in the 2019 Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt (pp. 58-75) and on MCAS Appeals web page.
  o Feedback Forms will be provided to the school with comments by reviewers.

* or the equivalent of 220 on next-gen ELA and Math tests.
**Updates for Next-Generation Competency Portfolios**

- New competency portfolio requirements for Mathematics and ELA, if submitted for the first time in spring 2019:
  - Based on 2017 Curriculum Frameworks
  - Next-Generation Requirements:
    - Mathematics—A total of 15 standards (or clusters of standards) from all five conceptual categories.
    - ELA—Four (4) essays plus two (2) short responses, based on grade 10 text.
    - Specific ELA, Math, and STE requirements described in 2019 Educator’s Manual.
- Previously submitted portfolios (i.e., portfolios for resubmission in spring 2019) may continue to use legacy requirements.
- No changes to requirements for Science and Technology/Engineering portfolios for 2018–2019 school year.

**Legacy Competency Portfolio Requirements**

**ELA** (only for previously submitted portfolios)
- Five essays on required topics
  - All drafts, revisions by student, and final draft
- Essays must be based on grade 10 texts
- Analysis by student, rather than plot summaries or “book reports”

**Mathematics** (only for previously submitted portfolios)
- Student work must document 14 required standards.
  - More than one work sample may be needed to cover each standard.
  - Each work sample should address only one standard.

**Science and Tech/Eng** (same requirements; 2006 standards)
- Student work must document 10 standards in one STE discipline, at least one in each topic.
  - More than one work sample may be needed to cover each standard.
  - Each work sample should address only one standard.

**How are Portfolios Scored?**

Content experts will review portfolios for the following characteristics:

- Are all required **strands** and **standards** submitted?
- Does the work address all aspects of each standard?
- Is work at grade-level complexity?
- Are student’s responses accurate? (>75%)
- Is work independently produced? (>75%)
  - Acceptable prompts—Show work, include correct units, round to nearest 10th
  - Unacceptable prompts—Model/sample problems shown on board or at top of worksheet; step-by-step support for solving a problem
- Did student show all work? (i.e., drafts with edits, steps in solving problems, final version or solution)
  - The answer alone isn’t enough (i.e., show all work; no answers without questions).
  - Provide descriptions where unclear.

**Cover Sheet for “Grade-level” and “Competency” Portfolios**

If this is a **Grade-Level Portfolio**, indicate the content area(s) submitted:

- ELA
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology/Engineering

If this is a high school **Competency Portfolio**, indicate the content area(s) submitted:

- ELA
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology/Engineering (STE):
  - High School Discipline (Select one)
    - Biology
    - Chemistry
    - Introductory Physics
    - Technology/Engineering
How Should Schools Approach the Task of Compiling a Competency Portfolio?

1. Determine students for whom a competency portfolio would be appropriate.
2. Review submission requirements.
3. Identify staff to collaborate (e.g., special educators, content area teachers, curriculum coordinators).
4. Review MA Curriculum Frameworks and portfolio samples posted to MCAS-Alt and Appeals web pages.
5. Instruct student on the standards required for the portfolio.
6. Collect samples of student's work for the portfolio.
7. Follow submission deadline requirements.

Consider giving MCAS Retests to high school students, when possible

- Students who previously took one or more standard MCAS test should also consider taking MCAS retests—
  - Even if submitting competency portfolios
  - Can (re)submit a portfolio and take test after grade 10.
- MCAS Performance Appeals process is another option.
  - Cohort Appeal
  - Portfolio Appeal (depending on whether a cohort exists).
- See [www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/)

Resources

- Math, ELA, and STE staff in your school/district can:
  - check that portfolio evidence is matched to specific standards
  - assist in adapting activities for individual learners
  - plan and/or conduct instructional activities
- Use Feedback Forms from previously submitted portfolios to guide future submissions.
- Portfolio samples that scored Needs Improvement posted to MCAS-Alt and MCAS Appeals web pages
- 2019 Educator’s Manual for MCAS-Alt
- Grade-level (Pp.52-55) and Competency Portfolio Requirements (Pp. 60-68)
- Work Description Labels (Pp. 57 & 70-75)

Example: Grade-level Work Description and Student Work
### Example: “Grade-level” Score Sheet

**2018 MCAS AIR**

**“Grade-level” Portfolio Score Sheet**

**Directions to Reviewer(s):** Complete score sheet below for all strands, EXCEPT ELA, Writing. 3 strands are required in each content area, with 3 learning standards per strand.

**Strand: F LA**

**Grade/Domain:** F LA - Reading Literature

1. **Learning Standard:** 
   - Work samples for this standard are at grade-level expectations: X All Partially: No
   - Work samples taken together document all aspects of this strand: X Yes Partially: No
   - Overall accuracy for this standard: 0-25% 26-50% 51-75% 76-100%
   - Did the student self-evaluate (e.g., self-assess, reflect, choose format)? X Yes: Yes

2. **Learning Standard:** 
   - Work samples for this standard are at grade-level expectations: X All Partially: No
   - Work samples taken together document all aspects of this strand: X Yes Partially: No
   - Overall independence for this standard: 0-25% 26-50% 51-75% 76-100%
   - Is the student self-evaluate (e.g., self-assess, reflect, choose format)? X Yes: Yes

### Example: Competency Work Description and Student Work

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Period:**

**Lecture Questions:** Chemical Names & Formulas: Binary & Polyatomic Ionic Compounds

1. NaCl
   - Sodium Chloride
   - $\text{Na}^+ \text{Cl}^-$
   - 1.0
   - 3.5
   - 5.5

2. CaF$_2$

3. AlN

4. MgBr$_2$

5. Calcium nitride
   - $\text{Ca}^2+ \text{N}^-$

6. Potassium iodide
   - $\text{K}^+ \text{I}^-$

### Example: STE (Biology) Feedback Form

**High School Science and Technology Engineering**

**MCAS AIR: Competency Validation Process**

**Section:**

**Number of pages:**

**Grade:**

**Accountability:**

**Evidence:**

**Specific Comments:**

**General Comments:**

**Be sure to include examples of student work for each standard scored.

### THANK YOU

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