



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
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*Joyce Edwards
Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning*

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Dear FPS families:

MCAS scores from last spring will be mailed out on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, for all students currently in grades 4-11. For students who were in grades 3-8 last spring, these MCAS scores are the results of the next-generation MCAS tests that were given in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These assessments test students on content knowledge and skills based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and utilize computer testing. This is also true for English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grade 10. However, the Science MCAS (Biology) that was given in grade 9 was still part of the Legacy MCAS system. During the next few months, the teachers and administrators will be engaged in a thoughtful review of the data so that we can celebrate our strengths and learn how best to improve in our work with students.

MCAS Results

The next-generation MCAS score reports are different from the older (legacy) MCAS, both in terms of format and in the information they contain. On the next-generation MCAS, the four scoring categories are Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. These categories emphasize readiness for the next grade level and are the same for all subjects in grades 3-8 and 10, except for HS Biology. This year, the Biology results will be reported in the Legacy categories of Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Warning. The Biology testing is scheduled to transition to the next-generation MCAS testing in the Spring of 2020. Scores across the district were largely in keeping with past results.

When reviewing student scores, please keep in mind that:

- In general, the standards for Meeting Expectations are more rigorous than the standards for reaching the Proficient level on the Legacy MCAS.
- Next-generation MCAS scores should not be compared to the Legacy MCAS scores—they are not the same.

Accountability and Assistance Levels

The state has an accountability system designed to measure how a school or district is

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice”
Equal Opportunity Employer



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doing. I am pleased to let you know that all Franklin schools and the district were found to be Meeting Targets and Franklin is not in need of assistance or intervention by the state. This system is comprehensive and complies with the 2015 Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The accountability system designates schools and districts as Meeting or Partially Meeting targets and either requiring or not requiring assistance or intervention. In addition to MCAS achievement and growth data, the new accountability system considers progress towards targets set for each school. Other considerations for accountability include:

- High school graduation and dropout rates
- English proficiency for English Language Learners
- Chronic absenteeism
- Participation in MCAS testing
- Advanced coursework

Accountability data will be included in the Massachusetts school and district profiles the district report cards from the state that will be available in December. If you have any questions about your student's progress, please contact your child's current teacher, guidance counselor, or principal. If you have questions about the testing process, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Joyce Edwards, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning