

Appendix G: Policy on Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionaries/Glossaries for ELs during MCAS Testing

As in the past, students who are currently or were ever reported as EL may use printed copies of authorized bilingual word-to-word dictionaries and glossaries during MCAS testing. DESE is providing **guidance on electronic dictionaries** for use during MCAS testing. Schools that currently use e-book versions as described below in regular instruction and classroom assessments may use them during MCAS testing. **Note that smartphones, including electronic dictionaries on smartphones, continue to be prohibited.**

Schools that have access to additional iPads or Android tablets for MCAS testing may use e-book bilingual word-to-word dictionaries from wordtoward.com. These bilingual dictionary e-books can be accessed through an iPad app or Android app. Note that these apps are free to use and provide a sign-in to a school account; however, schools must first purchase each bilingual dictionary e-book from the website. Purchased e-books from this site will expire after 18 months.

In order to use this option, the tablet **must be put into kiosk mode during testing** so that only the Word-to-Word app is available.

To assist in maintaining test security while using this app, students must be tested in small groups (up to 10 students).

DESE recommends administering practice tests to students using the app so that they can familiarize themselves with how they will plan their desk space during MCAS testing using two devices (one for the Word-to-Word app and one for the student testing device) and scratch paper.

Questions may be directed to DESE's Office of Student Assessment Services at mcas@mass.gov, and schools are invited to contact DESE after MCAS test administration with feedback on these applications to assist in future updates.