

## MCAS-Alt Quarterly Update Winter 2024–2025

This quarterly update is published by DESE to provide Massachusetts educators with information, guidance, and support to complete the MCAS-Alt for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

### 1. New DESE Coordinator for the MCAS-Alt

We are pleased to announce that Asaad Fulton is now serving as the Coordinator for the MCAS-Alt. Previously, Asaad was managing the development and implementation of statewide summative general and **alternate assessments** for the District of Columbia. Prior to that position, Asaad served as a special educator in Boston Public Schools. Educators and administrators can contact Asaad at [Asaad.Fulton@mass.gov](mailto:Asaad.Fulton@mass.gov) with MCAS-Alt questions and concerns.

### 2. Recordings of the MCAS-Alt Trainings Now Available

For additional assistance and support, recordings of the fall MCAS-Alt trainings are available on DESE's [MCAS-Alt web page](#):

- Introduction to the MCAS-Alt: Core Concepts:
  - Part A and Part B
- ELA–Writing
- Science and Tech/Eng (STE) for Grades 5, 8, and High School
- Civics for MCAS-Alt (Grade 8)
- 2025 MCAS-Alt Update
- Administrator's Overview

### 3. MCAS-Alt Review Sessions: January 2025

Review sessions for the MCAS-Alt will be offered in person and virtually in January; see the following table for dates, times, and locations. [Online registration opens December 2](#).

For assistance, contact the MCAS Service Center at 800-737-5103. If an ASL interpreter is needed, requests can be made by emailing [MCASevents@cognia.org](mailto:MCASevents@cognia.org) **no later than December 13** to ensure the availability of an interpreter.

### In-Person MCAS-Alt Review Sessions

*Educators are encouraged to bring in-progress MCAS-Alt materials. Training specialists will answer questions and give feedback in an informal setting.*

Date	Time	Location
1/14/25	8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Taunton Conference Center</b> 700 Myles Standish Blvd, Taunton, MA 02780
1/15/25	8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Springfield Marriott</b> 2 Boland Way, Springfield, MA 01115
1/16/25	8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	<b>Marlborough Marriott Courtyard</b> 75 Felton St, Marlborough, MA 01752

### Virtual MCAS-Alt Review Sessions

Date	Timeframe (Register for a 1-hour block)
1/22/25	8:30 a.m.–2:50 p.m.
1/23/25	8:30 a.m.–2:50 p.m.

## 4. Administrators' Corner

### Supporting Educators

In anticipation of the time it will take educators to input the data for their students' alternate assessments, DESE requests that principals support teachers by doing the following:

- facilitating flexible scheduling, planning time, and classroom coverage where possible for teachers to work on documenting data
- reviewing the MCAS-Alt recommended timeline, found in the [Educator's Manual](#)
- encouraging collaboration among general education, special education, related services staff, and paraprofessionals to collect data and evidence for assessments
- enabling teachers to attend a virtual or in-person DESE-sponsored winter review session in January and again in February/March
- reviewing assessments periodically to ensure that they are on schedule to be completed by the submission deadline of **March 28, 2025**

**Reminder:** Administrators or their designee will need time to review the assessments prior to shipment. The Principal's Certification of Proper Administration (PCPA) form must be signed by the principal to verify the authenticity of students' portfolios.

## 5. MCAS-Alt Participation Tool

School staff will **no longer** be required to upload the completed [Alternate Assessment Participation Tool](#) to the Security Portal. However, schools must retain a copy of the Alternate Assessment Participation Tool in their special education records to ensure that IEP teams are correctly designating only eligible students to the alternate assessment ([SE 5](#)).

## 6. MCAS-Alt Registration: January 2–17, 2025

MCAS-Alt submission materials can be ordered from **January 2 to January 17, 2025**. Ordering

these materials is separate from the student registration process for MCAS testing. Principals should check with educators to verify the number of students taking the MCAS-Alt in each grade. Beginning on January 2, principals can order MCAS-Alt submission materials for their school by following these steps:

- Log in to the [MCAS Service Center](#) and select MCAS Alternate Assessment.
- Click on Enrollment Verification.
- Log in with your 2025 MCAS password, which will be posted in the [DESE Security Portal](#) by January 2.
- Confirm your contact and school information by following the onscreen prompts.
- Order materials for students in each grade who are taking the MCAS-Alt.
- Click the Submit button.

After submission, a confirmation page will be available to print for your records.