



QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardians,

Last spring, Quincy Public Schools students in grades 3-8 were assessed in the Next Generation MCAS tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics (also known as MCAS 2.0). Thanks to our principals and teaching staff, and you, their parents and guardians, our students were as prepared as possible for the new assessment, which was different in both content and format from previous MCAS tests. For the first time, students in Grades 4 and 8 completed the MCAS test on computers, while students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 took the test on paper as had been done in previous years.

Along with the new MCAS testing format, there are differences in scoring and it is important to note that these scores are not comparable to the scores received for prior MCAS tests your child may have taken. The new scoring categories are *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*.

More than half of Quincy Public School students in grades 3-8 scored in the *Meeting* or *Exceeding Expectations* categories, which closely align with the results of school districts across the state of Massachusetts. As you look at the enclosed student scoring report, please keep in mind the following:

- The scoring standards for *Meeting Expectations* on the new MCAS are more rigorous than the level required for reaching *Proficient* on the older MCAS.
- The benchmarks for the new scoring standards were purposefully set to levels that would indicate when students might need additional help to succeed.
- The new scoring standards also indicate readiness for higher-level work at the next grade level.

While MCAS results are only one measure of a student's growth and achievement, we feel strongly that that in future years, a higher percentage of students are likely to score *Meeting* or *Exceeding Expectations* as they become more familiar with the new MCAS format and computer-based testing administration. At your school's upcoming parent conferences, you will have the opportunity to discuss your student's complete overall academic and social/emotional growth and development with their teachers.

In Spring 2018, students in grades 4, 5, 7, and 8 will take the computer-based version of MCAS. Students currently in 10th grade will be assessed under the older MCAS format, so they are not affected by any of these changes. For more information about the spring 2017 Next Generation MCAS Results, visit our web page at <http://quincypublicschools.com/> and search for Next Generation MCAS under **Parent Links**.

If you have any questions about the Next Generation MCAS, please contact your school's principal or the Curriculum Office at 617.984.8760.

Sincerely,

Richard DeCristofaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Quincy Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or handicap, in its educational activities or employment practices.