

# MCAS/PARCC

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

# Overview of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is the Commonwealth's statewide assessment program for students educated with public funds. MCAS tests measure the performance of students, schools, and districts on the academic learning standards in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks, fulfilling the requirements of state and federal laws.

MCAS is Designed to test **MINIMAL COMPETENCY**

- PARCC's annual assessments are available in English language arts/ literacy and mathematics for grades 3-8 and high school. They may serve as the states' new annual tests.

The tests were developed over several years by a wide range of educators, researchers, psychometricians, and others from the PARCC states. Based on Universal Design

- PARCC tests are designed to test **Content Mastery**
- PARCC offers fewer Accommodations targeting Presentation, Response and Timing of Tests. Many Accommodations are now available to all students.

# MANSFIELD AND STATE TESTING

- Students in Grades 3-8 will participate in PARCC in the Spring of 2016
- Grades 9 and 10 will participate in MCAS in the Spring of 2016
- In 2017 Mansfield will participate in the MCAS 2.0 which is more closely aligned with PARCC
- 72% of the districts in MA selected to administer PARCC in 2016. Next year, all districts will administer the MCAS/PARCC hybrid test known as MCAS 2.0

# TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

## (Standard)

### MCAS

- Graphic Organizer (20)
- Untimed tests
- Read aloud (Math) (16)
- Kurzweil 3000 format
- Placemarkers (13)
- Test Directions (10)
- Small Group (3)
- Frequent Breaks (1)
- Separate Setting (2c)

### PARCC

- Graphic organizers not allowed
- PARCC – Timed tests\*\*
- Text to Speech available for ALL
- No Kurzweil Available
- Straight Edge allowed for ALL
- Directions clarified
- Small Group (2a)
- Frequent Breaks (2f)
- Separate Setting (4)

# TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS (Non-Standard)

## MCAS

- Test Administrator Reads aloud ELA Reading Comprehension Test (26)
- Calculation Device (30)

## PARCC

- Human Reader/Human Signer Intended for students who are **severely limited** or prevented from decoding
- Calculation Device and Mathematics tools (4e) – Intended for students who are **severely limited** or prevented from performing **basic** calculations

# WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

- All newly written IEP's will reflect the approved accommodations related to the specific test
- Any IEP written before January 4 2016 will be amended to reflect approved accommodations

# RESOURCES

- <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/accessibility>
- <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/test-design>
- <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/overview.html>
  
- Your child's Special Education Liaison
- Nancy Beier- Assistant Director of Special Education  
Elementary
- Jim Leonard – Assistant Director of Special Education  
Secondary