

North Adams Public Schools

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Barbara Malkas, Ed.D.
Superintendent

November 3, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You have just received your child's MCAS scores, which includes spring legacy MCAS (high school and science for grades 5, 8, and high school) and Next Generation MCAS (grades 3-8) for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The Next Generation MCAS is aligned to the standards of the most recent Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks revision. This standard revision increased the expectations for student learning by shifting the K-12 outcome from high school diploma eligibility to a college and career readiness standard. This means that the new tests given in grades 3 to 8 have a higher expectation for achievement to perform at grade level, or on target, for meeting the college and career readiness outcomes.

The student scores are still based on a scaled score to a performance level for Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Unsatisfactory at grade 10 English Language Arts and Math and in Science legacy MCAS tests for grades 5, 8, and high school. However, the performance levels for the Next Generation MCAS have been changed to Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. About 50% of the students statewide are scoring at the Meeting Expectations performance level, but since this is a more difficult assessment, there will be students who were formerly scoring at a higher level that will now be scoring in the Partially Meeting Expectations performance level.

Because these assessments are new, this year is considered a baseline data year and limited data reporting will be provided to districts and schools. For accountability purposes, the district and each school in the district have been identified as “**No Level**”. This is the accountability status being assigned to most districts and schools in Massachusetts for 2017.

As you receive your student's results, please remember that the data is objective and is not a reflection of student's learning or the educational gains made each day. The data will be used to prepare our students for the Next Generation assessments of Spring 2018, to modify and elevate our curriculum and instruction, and to accommodate each individual student's academic challenges in order for them to achieve their personal goals.

Thank you.



Barbara Malkas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools