



**ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ♦ ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Assistant Superintendent  
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the spring of 2009, Massachusetts public school students in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, tenth, and eleventh grades took MCAS examinations.

<b><u>Spring 2009</u></b>	<b><u>MCAS Examination(s)</u></b>
Grade 3	English Language Arts Reading Comprehension and Mathematics
Grade 4	English Language Arts Composition and Mathematics
Grade 5	English Language Arts Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering
Grade 6	English Language Arts Reading Comprehension and Mathematics
Grade 7	English Language Arts Composition and Mathematics
Grade 8	English Language Arts Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering
Grade 10	English Language Arts Composition, Mathematics, Science and Technology/Engineering
Grade 11	Re-test(s) English Language Arts, Mathematics, and/or Science

For the 2010 graduating seniors, a passing score on the English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS tests is a statewide graduation requirement. We have now received the results of these MCAS tests for our students and our schools. Enclosed you will find a *Parent/Guardian Report* containing your child's scores on the examination(s).

You will also find a report of your child's responses to each test item. If you would like to understand the meaning of this item-by-item read-out, you can review the released 2009 test items on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website:

<http://doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html>

We believe that no single set of tests can comprehensively measure a student's knowledge, skills, or academic progress. Nonetheless, you may find that the MCAS report contains useful information or raises important questions about your child's academic knowledge and skills. If your child's score is not consistent with your child's grades and/or with other indicators you have previously received regarding his or her academic achievement, or if the test results raise new concerns for you about your child's academic progress, you may wish to contact your child's teacher or counselor for a conversation.

Our district results are available on our web site: <http://ab.mec.edu/curriculum/assessment.shtml>  
The results of the MCAS tests are presented in charts indicating that, relative to the state at large, our district's performance is very strong. Given the socioeconomic and educational backgrounds of our students, one would of course expect that, overall, our students would do well. Nonetheless, our faculty takes pride in the fact that most of our students have developed such strong command over the skills which the state is assessing. This pride is especially warranted when one considers all the other exciting things we are doing for our students, above and beyond teaching the narrow band of academic skills and knowledge covered by these standardized tests.

In upcoming months our faculty will examine the details in the MCAS data and use that information both to target instructional supports for students with lower test scores and to improve instruction more generally.

In regard to MCAS, if you plan to talk to your children, we would encourage you, as parents, to:

- make clear to them that while MCAS scores tell us some important things about our academic skills, they do not by any means reflect the full range of our skills and capabilities nor, more importantly, our worth as human beings.
- talk about areas of strength and weakness, rather than about test scores; and
- support the schools in conveying the message that test performance is confidential and ought not to be discussed at school.

**If your child failed either of the English Language Arts or Mathematics 10<sup>th</sup> grade exams or a Science exam**, s/he will have at least four additional opportunities to re-take the MCAS between the start of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The High School will sign up your child to participate in the re-tests unless you contact Susan Root in writing stating you do not want your child to be re-tested. You will be contacted by the high school regarding remediation opportunities that your child may take advantage of in preparation for English Language Arts, Mathematics or Science re-tests.

For further information regarding district and school MCAS results, you may want to visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's web site: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu>

Sincerely,



Susan Horn

**OVERVIEW OF APS / ABRSD**  
**MCAS PERFORMANCE by GRADE LEVEL**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE**

**District Results: GRADE 3**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Reading, at the third grade level**

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>351</b>		
71	20%	"Above Proficient," compared to 12% statewide
192	54%	"Proficient," compared to 45% statewide
83	24%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 33% statewide
5	2%	"Warning," compared to 10% statewide

**MATHEMATICS**

**Mathematics, at the third grade level**

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>352</b>		
103	29%	"Above Proficient," compared to 20% statewide
166	47%	"Proficient," compared to 40% statewide
69	20%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 25% statewide
14	4%	"Warning," compared to 15% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 4**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts, at the fourth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>387</b>		
102	26%	"Advanced," compared to 12% statewide
206	53%	"Proficient," compared to 42% statewide
63	16%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 35% statewide
16	5%	"Warning," compared to 11% statewide

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics, at the fourth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>388</b>		
114	29%	"Advanced," compared to 16% statewide
165	42%	"Proficient," compared to 32% statewide
98	25%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 41% statewide
11	4%	"Warning," compared to 11% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 5**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

English Language Arts, at the fifth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>406</b>		
121	30%	"Advanced," compared to 15% statewide
234	57%	"Proficient," compared to 48% statewide
49	12%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 29% statewide
2	1%	"Warning," compared to 8% statewide

## **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics, at the fifth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>405</b>		
173	43%	"Advanced," compared to 22% statewide
164	40%	"Proficient," compared to 32% statewide
51	13%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 29% statewide
17	4%	"Warning," compared to 18% statewide

## **SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING**

Science, at the fifth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>405</b>		
158	39%	"Advanced," compared to 17% statewide
163	40%	"Proficient," compared to 32% statewide
77	19%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 39% statewide
7	2%	"Warning," compared to 12% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 6**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts, at the sixth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>388</b>		
144	37%	"Advanced," compared to 16% statewide
209	54%	"Proficient," compared to 50% statewide
31	8%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 24% statewide
2	1%	"Warning," compared to 9% statewide

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics, at the sixth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>388</b>		
210	55%	"Advanced," compared to 24% statewide
127	32%	"Proficient," compared to 33% statewide
43	11%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 27% statewide
8	2%	"Warning," compared to 16% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 7**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts, at the seventh grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>503</b>		
174	35%	"Advanced," compared to 14% statewide
280	55%	"Proficient," compared to 56% statewide
40	8%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 23% statewide
9	2%	"Warning," compared to 7% statewide

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics, at the seventh grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>504</b>		
173	35%	"Advanced," compared to 16% statewide
216	43%	"Proficient," compared to 33% statewide
78	15%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 30% statewide
37	7%	"Warning," compared to 21% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 8**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts, at the eighth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>495</b>		
143	29%	"Advanced," compared to 15% statewide
319	64%	"Proficient," compared to 63% statewide
25	5%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 15% statewide
8	2%	"Warning," compared to 6% statewide

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics, at the eighth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>495</b>		
242	49%	"Advanced," compared to 20% statewide
168	34%	"Proficient," compared to 28% statewide
56	11%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 28% statewide
29	6%	"Warning," compared to 23% statewide

## SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Science, at the eighth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>495</b>		
80	16%	"Advanced," compared to 4% statewide
287	58%	"Proficient," compared to 35% statewide
106	21%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 40% statewide
22	4%	"Warning," compared to 21% statewide

# District Results: **GRADE 10**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

### English Language Arts, at the tenth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>519</b>		
266	52%	"Advanced," compared to 28% statewide
235	45%	"Proficient," compared to 51% statewide
18	3%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 17% statewide
0	0%	"Failing," compared to 4% statewide

## **MATHEMATICS**

### Mathematics, at the tenth grade level

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>521</b>		
434	84%	"Advanced," compared to 47% statewide
66	12%	"Proficient," compared to 28% statewide
19	3%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 18% statewide
2	1%	"Failing," compared to 8% statewide

## **SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING**

### Biology

Total # of students	2009	Performance (compared to statewide 2009 student performance)
<b>493</b>		
265	54%	"Advanced," compared to 16% statewide
211	42%	"Proficient," compared to 45% statewide
16	3%	"Needs Improvement," compared to 29% statewide
1	1%	Failing," compared to 9% statewide