



Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

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April 30, 2021

Students and Families of the Class of 2022:

At the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting on Tuesday, April 20, it was determined that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will modify the state graduation requirements for students in grade 11 (Class of 2022), so that they will not be required to pass the MCAS English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics tests in order to earn their Competency Determination (CD).

Simply put, students in the Class of 2022 will not need to pass MCAS exams to be eligible to graduate.

Grade 11 students, however, do have the option of taking the MCAS ELA and Mathematics tests for the purposes of student scholarships and awards from the state. The state scholarships and other similar awards that rely directly on MCAS scores, along with links with more information, are listed below. We encourage students and their families to examine these state awards to determine whether or not taking the optional MCAS is in the student's best interest.

- [The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship](#)
- [The Stanley Z. Koplak Certificate of Mastery Award](#)

Grade 11 students who are interested in pursuing any of these scholarships and/or awards from the state should do so either in the spring 2021 or simply wait until fall 2021. Due to the many challenges that families are facing this year, we understand that many students will choose to participate in MCAS in the fall instead. Please note that the Adams Scholarship is based on a student's first attempt at MCAS, and it is assumed that a student choosing to take the MCAS for scholarship purposes will only have one attempt.

Grade 11 students who choose to participate in the optional MCAS exams this spring will take the exams in May or June on dates to be determined. The number of testing days we offer, the specific dates that the exams will be administered, and final logistics will be determined by the amount of students who decide to take the optional MCAS. All MCAS testing this spring will be finished before June 9th.

Once again, even if there is an administration of the MCAS exams this spring for those select students who opt to sit for the exams, no Grade 11 student is required to take the exam and those who decide NOT to take the optional MCAS exams this spring do not need to take any further action as a result of this letter.

Grade 11 students who decide that they will take the optional MCAS this spring must indicate their interest by filling out the OPT-IN form: bit.ly/MCASOpt-In

Grade 11 students who decide that they will take the optional MCAS this spring must inform us by **Monday, May 3rd**. We will communicate MCAS logistics and dates directly to those students who opt-in for spring 2021 testing.

If a student chooses not to take the MCAS this spring, but thinks they may wish to take the MCAS in the fall, they do not need to fill out the linked form. This form is **only** for students who are opting in for the spring 2021 MCAS administration. We will send out a similar correspondence and survey for fall testing at the start of the next school year. If you have any questions regarding MCAS, then please contact Noemi Robertson at 978-345-9200, extension 5201.

Respectfully,

Thomas H. Browne

Tom Browne, Principal