



Lexington Public Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade Eight Students,

It is difficult to believe that we are entering February. Despite the recent snow and dropping temperatures, our thoughts in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction turn toward spring and the upcoming MCAS assessments. To that end, I am writing to inform you of recent changes that will impact your child's MCAS experience in the spring of 2017.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has determined that in the spring of 2017, eighth grade students across the state of Massachusetts will complete the MCAS online as opposed to using the traditional pencil and paper assessment. This change will include both the English Language Arts and Mathematics sections.

While this change represents a shift in the modality of testing, the assessments do align with Lexington Public Schools curricular standards and the way our students demonstrate their learning. At this time, the middle schools are working with school and district personnel to prepare teachers and students for a smooth transition to using technology for testing purposes.

The district remains committed to providing an exemplary education for *all* students. As our partners, you can support your child's learning as you have always done – by encouraging your child to read, engaging in conversation about what s/he is learning in the classroom, and communicating with your school about any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support and have a wonderful February break!

Sincerely,

Kelly Chase, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning