

MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt)

**Electronic Portfolios for
Students with Disabilities**



MCAS Requirements

Students with **significant** disabilities who are **unable to take the standard MCAS tests, even with accommodations**, must take the MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt)



What is MCAS-Ait?

A portfolio of “evidence” collected during the school year that documents a student’s knowledge and skills based on the state’s *Curriculum Frameworks*, including:

- Data charts
- Work samples
- Work Description “labels”
- Videos, photos, reflection sheets



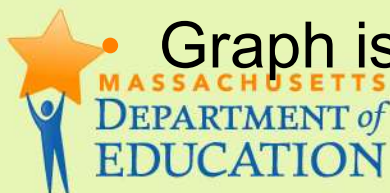
Submitting Student Portfolios

- Most portfolios are submitted in a three-ring binder with actual work samples, data charts, work descriptions, and other evidence.
- Almost 10% (650 of 7000) were submitted on CD/DVDs in spring 2006
- Software developed for MA DOE by Measured Progress in 2002
 - Based on FileMaker Pro

MCAS-Alt Electronic Portfolio

How it works...

- Scanned student work and digital photo/video/audio evidence are saved in a folder created for each student
- Portfolio “products” are stored as digital files on the hard drive of teacher’s computer
- Bar and line graphs of a student’s performance over time created automatically
 - Enter percentages of accuracy and independence
- Graph is generated onscreen



MCAS-Alt Forms and Graphs Online

Two other variations are provided to teachers who prefer to submit a “paper” portfolio, but want to complete **forms, graphs, and work description labels** on computer...

- OPTION 1: Forms and Graphs - Download Version
 - Software downloaded to a single computer
 - All forms completed on one computer and printed out
 - Once student information is entered, it carries over to all other forms
- OPTION 2: Forms and Graphs – Web-based Version
 - Software accessed through a secure (password) Web site
 - Active forms maintained from multiple computers/users



Sample Portfolio Strands

Digital samples of portfolio products, with annotations, are available at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/alt/samples.html>



Sample Timeline

9/06	Identify students, organize folders
10/06	Attend DOE training, set up charts to collect data; begin collecting work samples
11-12/06	Obtain consent forms, begin recording data on student performance
1-2/07	Continue the above
3/07	Finish data gathering, begin selecting and organizing portfolio products
4/07	Complete selection, edit all videotapes, review portfolio with parents
5-6/07	May 4, 2007 deadline for submission, training for MCAS-Alt prospective scorers
7/07	MCAS-Alt Summer Scoring Institute

Contact Information

- Dan Wiener, MCAS-Alt Coordinator
Dwiener@doe.mass.edu
- Nancy Hanson, MCAS-Alt Project Specialist
Nhanson@doe.mass.edu

Student Assessment Services

Telephone: (781) 338-3625

