

APPENDIX B
GRADE-SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT-LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

English Language Arts

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

General: All grades (grades 3–8 and 10)

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA All Grades	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites limited textual support for conclusions; incompletely summarizes key details and ideas; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides limited understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of content in diverse media; partially evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites solid textual support for conclusions; appropriately summarizes key details and ideas; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides general understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of content in diverse media; appropriately evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support for conclusions; skillfully summarizes key details and ideas; provides a sophisticated analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides sophisticated understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; shows sophisticated understanding of content in diverse media; insightfully evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>

<p>ELA All Grades</p>	<p>Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i></p>	<p>Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i></p>	<p>Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i></p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

English Language Arts

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 3

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 3	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites limited textual support; demonstrates incomplete understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a partial description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a limited understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information presented in illustrations; partially compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites solid textual support; demonstrates appropriate understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a mostly complete description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a general understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information presented in illustrations; appropriately compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support; demonstrates in-depth understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a comprehensive description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a clear understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information presented in illustrations; effectively compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>

ELA Grade 3	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 4

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 4	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites limited textual support; incompletely summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a partial description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a limited understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information presented in media; partially explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites solid textual support; appropriately summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a mostly complete description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a general understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information present in media; appropriately explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support; skillfully summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a comprehensive description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a clear understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information present in media; effectively explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>

ELA Grade 4	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 5

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 5	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides limited textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; incompletely summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a limited explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; partially analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides solid textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; appropriately summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a general explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; appropriately analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides in-depth textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; skillfully summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a comprehensive analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a clear explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; effectively analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>

ELA Grade 5	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 6

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 6	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; partially integrates information in different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; solidly integrates information in different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; skillfully integrates information in different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>

ELA Grade 6	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 7

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 7	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; partially integrates information in different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; solidly integrates information in different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; skillfully integrates information in different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>

ELA Grade 7	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 8

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 8	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides a basic analysis between texts; partially integrates information from different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides an appropriate analysis between texts; solidly integrates information from different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides an insightful analysis between texts; skillfully integrates information from different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>

ELA Grade 8	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Grade 10

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

ELA Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Reading	<p>Partially analyzes what a text implies and states explicitly; uses little evidence to support the analysis; incompletely identifies and analyzes the development of a central idea or theme of a text; provides a limited analysis of how characters, events or ideas are developed and interact across sufficiently complex texts</p> <p>Partially determines meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) of words and phrases and analyzes how they impact meaning and tone; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the overall development of ideas or purpose</p> <p>Provides a basic analysis between texts; partially integrates information from different sources; partially analyzes and evaluates important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Adequately analyzes what a text implies and states explicitly; uses sufficient evidence to support the analysis; appropriately identifies and analyzes the development of a central idea or theme of a text; provides a mostly complete analysis of how characters, events or ideas are developed and interact across sufficiently complex texts</p> <p>Appropriately determines meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) of words and phrases and analyzes how they impact meaning and tone; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the overall development of ideas or purpose</p> <p>Provides an appropriate analysis between texts; solidly integrates information from different sources; appropriately analyzes and evaluates important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Insightfully analyzes what a text implies and states explicitly; uses strong and thorough evidence to support the analysis; skillfully identifies and analyzes the development of a central idea or theme of a text; provides a sophisticated analysis of how characters, events or ideas are developed and interact across sufficiently complex texts</p> <p>Skillfully determines meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) of words and phrases and analyzes how they impact meaning and tone; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the overall development of ideas or purpose</p> <p>Provides an insightful analysis between texts; skillfully integrates information from different sources; insightfully analyzes and evaluates important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to sufficiently complex texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a basic central idea, thesis, or sequenced events; limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to sufficiently complex texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with adequate development of a solid central idea, thesis, or sequenced events; moderate organization; and appropriate expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces clear and sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to sufficiently complex texts, topics, or subject areas</p>

ELA Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
	Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience	Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience	<p>Produces writing with full development of an insightful central idea, thesis, or sequenced events; skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of sufficiently complex academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Partially determines the meaning of unfamiliar words in text using a variety of strategies; shows partial understanding of various grammatical rules and literary devices in a text</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of sufficiently complex academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Sufficiently determines the meaning of unfamiliar words in text using a variety of strategies; shows sufficient understanding of various grammatical rules and literary devices in a text</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of sufficiently complex academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Skillfully determines the meaning of unfamiliar words in text using a variety of strategies; shows full understanding of various grammatical rules and literary devices in a text</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Mathematics

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grades 3 through 8 and 10

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics All Grades	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Conceptual Understanding and Procedural Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates partial understanding of the grade appropriate numeration system • Performs some calculations and estimations • Identifies examples of basic math facts or mathematical concepts • Mostly reads and sometimes constructs graphs, tables, and charts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies understanding of the base-ten system and fractions to interpret numbers and solve problems • Performs most calculations and estimations • Describes mathematical concepts and generates examples and counterexamples of concepts • Represents data and mathematical relationships using equations, verbal descriptions, tables, and graphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs complex calculations and estimations • Selects the best representations for a given set of data • Explains relationships between models such as equations, verbal descriptions, tables, and graphs • Applies math facts and connects mathematical concepts from various areas of mathematics, and uses the concepts to develop generalizations • Recognizes and makes use of structure, discerning patterns by seeing complicated things as single objects
Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies learned procedures to solve routine problems • Uses concrete objects or pictures to help conceptualize and solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies learned procedures and mathematical concepts to solve a variety of problems, including multi-step problems • Solves problems using multiple methods • Demonstrates the relationships between operations used to solve problems and the context of the problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generates strategies and procedures to solve non-routine problems • Solves problems using multiple methods, evaluating reasonableness of intermediate steps leading to the standard algorithms • Draws connections between strategies • Analyzes givens, constraints, and relationships in problems, using multiple methods and appropriate tools
Mathematical Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies some reasoning methods to solve routine problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a variety of reasoning methods to solve routine and non-routine problems • Uses symbols to solve routine mathematical problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons abstractly and quantitatively, using multiple reasoning methods to solve complex problems and provides justification for the reasoning • Decontextualizes situations and represents them symbolically
Mathematical Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and uses basic terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses logical forms of representation (e.g., text, graphs, symbols) to illustrate steps to a solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses logical forms of representation (e.g., text, graphs, symbols) to justify solutions and solution strategies • Constructs viable arguments and critiques the reasoning of others, attending to precision

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Mathematics

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 3

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 3	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Operation and Algebraic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines products and quotients of whole numbers • Solves one-step word problems by multiplying and dividing within 100 with limited accuracy • Determines the unknown whole number in a multiplication or division equation • Recognizes simple arithmetic patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets products and quotients of whole numbers • Solves word problems by multiplying and dividing within 100 accurately • Solves two-step word problems with unknowns in equations involving all four operations • Applies the properties of multiplication • Recognizes arithmetic patterns • Recognizes products of two single-digit numbers • Uses equal groups and arrays to solve word problems involving multiplication and division within 100 • Consistently uses estimation strategies to assess the reasonableness of answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates and solves equations with unknown factors to solve word problems • Explains arithmetic patterns using the properties of operations • Uses area models to solve word problems involving multiplication and division within 100 • Recognizes products of two single-digit numbers and the related division facts
Number and Operations in Base Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses place value to round two-digit numbers to the nearest 10 • Solves problems by adding and subtracting within 1000 using various strategies with limited accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses place value to round three-digit numbers to the nearest 10 • Fluently adds and subtracts within 1000 using various strategies • Solves problems involving multiplication of a one-digit whole number by multiples of 10 in the range 10–90 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses algorithms to add and subtract within 1000 and multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10 in the range 10–90, and explain why they work • Recognizes the relationship between addition and subtraction

Mathematics Grade 3	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Number and Operations – Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visually identifies fractional parts of a whole Recognizes equivalent fractions Compares two fractions with like numerators or like denominators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies fractional parts of a whole Identifies and represents fractions on number lines or other visual fraction models that are already created Generates equivalent fractions Represents whole numbers as fractions Compares fractions with like numerators and denominators by reasoning about their size using visual fraction models that are already created, and symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains fraction equivalence Recognizes and explains fractional equivalence of whole numbers Creates visual fraction models to justify the size comparison made about two fractions that refer to the same whole.
Measurement and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tells, writes and measures time to the nearest minute Identifies appropriate tools and units of measurement to solve problems Uses line plots to solve problems Uses scaled picture graphs and bar graphs to solve problems Finds area by using non-standard units Solves mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding the perimeter given the side length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solves word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes Selects and uses appropriate tools and units of measure to solve problems Draws simple scaled picture graphs and bar graphs and uses them to solve one-step problems Generates measurement data using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch Creates line plots with whole numbers, halves and fourths to record and show data to solve problems Finds area by using standard units Relates multiplication and addition to area Determines area by decomposing shapes into non-overlapping rectangles and adding the areas of the non-overlapping parts Solves mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding an unknown side length and identifies rectangles with the same perimeter and different area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses estimation to solve word problems involving measurement Draws scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs and uses them to solve two-step problems Differentiates perimeter from area Interprets scaled picture and bar graphs, and line plots Solves mathematical and real-world problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding an unknown side length and is able to reproduce rectangles with the same perimeter and different area
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies two-dimensional shapes based on their sides and angles Partitions shapes into parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes two-dimensional shapes based their sides and angles Partitions shapes into parts with equal areas and expresses the area as a unit fraction of the whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compares and classifies two-dimensional shapes based on their sides and angles

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 4

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 4	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Operation and Algebraic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets a multiplication equation as a comparison • Solves multiplication and division word problems • Solves two-step word problems using the four operations with whole numbers, including problems where remainders must be interpreted • Identifies multiplication facts through 12×12 • Identifies factor pairs in the 1-100 range • Identifies a pattern that follows a rule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes verbal statements of multiplicative comparisons as multiplication equations. • Represents multiplication and division word problems using drawings and equations • Uses the four operations to solve multi-step word problems and represents the problems by equations • Identifies related multiplication and division facts through 12×12 • Finds factor pairs in the 1-100 range and recognizes that a whole number is a multiple of each of its factors • Distinguishes between prime and composite numbers in the range 1-100 • Identifies a pattern that follows a rule and generates a pattern, given a rule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the difference between multiplicative and additive comparison • Uses equations to represent problems, and justifies solutions with estimation • Identifies multiples and their corresponding factors and distinguishes between prime and composite numbers. • Generates patterns not explicit to the rule • Uses estimation to assess the reasonableness of answers

Mathematics Grade 4	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Number and Operations in Base Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads and writes whole numbers using base-ten number names and expanded form • Uses place value understanding to round whole numbers to the thousands place • Solves problems involving multiplication of four-digit numbers by a one-digit numbers • Solves problems involving quotients and remainders with up to three-digit dividends and one-digit divisors based on place value and properties of operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses place value to recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in any place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right • Compares two multi-digit numbers based on place value position using $<$, $>$ and $=$ • Uses place value understanding to round whole numbers to the ten thousands place • Adds and subtracts whole numbers using the standard algorithm • Solves problems involving multiplication of two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers • Solves problems involving quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors, using the relationship between multiplication and division understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses place value understanding to round whole numbers up to one million • Uses understanding of structure to explain the standard algorithm for addition and subtraction. • Solves problems involving multiplication of four-digit numbers by one-digit, and justifies solutions by using equations, rectangular arrays or area models. • Justifies solutions using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models
Number and Operations – Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes equivalency in fractions • Compares fractions with different numerators and different denominators by using common denominators or common numerators • Decomposes fractions into a sum of fractions and uses visual fraction models to solve problems • Multiplies a fraction by a whole number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains why fractions are equivalent using visual fraction models • Consistently compares two fractions when the two fractions refer to the same whole • Consistently compares two decimals when the two decimals refer to the same whole • Compares fractions with different numerators and different denominators by comparing to a benchmark fraction • Adds and subtracts fractions with like denominators • Decomposes fractions into a sum of fractions and uses equations to solve problems • Adds and subtracts mixed numbers with like denominators by replacing with equivalent fraction and by using properties of operations or the relationship of addition and subtraction • Uses visual fraction models and equations to solve word problems involving multiplication of a fraction by a whole number • Uses decimal notation to represent fractions with denominators of 10 and 100 • Compares decimals to hundredths by reasoning about their size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generates equivalent fractions including fractions greater than 1 • Decomposes fractions into a sum of fractions and justifies solutions to problems with visual fraction models and equations • Justifies the conversion of a fraction with denominator of 10 to an equivalent fraction with a denominator of 100 and expresses it as a decimal

Mathematics Grade 4	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Measurement and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves measurement problems involving whole numbers using all four operations • Solves measurement problems involving perimeter and area • Interprets data presented in line plots (dot plots) and uses addition and subtraction of fractions to solve problems involving line plots • Identifies concepts of angles and angle measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves problems involving converting measurements from larger units to smaller units • Creates line plots (dot plots) in fractions of a unit ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$), to display given data, and uses addition and subtraction of fractions solve problems involving line plots • Uses a protractor to measure, sketch or interpret an angle • Finds unknown angles in diagrams • Justifies solutions to perimeter and area problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons about relative sizes of measurement units within one system of units • Sketches an angle without a protractor
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies right triangles, points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, lines of symmetry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies right triangles and draws points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, in two dimensional shapes • Classifies two-dimensional shapes based on their attributes, including the presence and absence of parallel or perpendicular lines or angles of a specified size. • Recognizes lines of symmetry in two-dimensional figures and identifies line-symmetric figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws two-dimensional shapes based on attributes.

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 5

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 5	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Operation and Algebraic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes when parentheses, brackets, or braces are appropriately used in numerical expressions Given two rules, generates numerical patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses parentheses, brackets, or braces to write, interpret and evaluate numerical expressions Interprets numerical expressions without evaluating Given two rules, identifies the relationship between corresponding terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given two rules, forms and graphs ordered pairs and interprets the relationship between corresponding terms
Number and Operations in Base Ten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes that in a multi-digit number, including a decimal, a digit in any place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right or 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left Reads decimals to thousandths using base 10 numerals, number names, and expanded form Identifies which comparison symbols to use when comparing decimals to hundredths Uses various strategies to solve problems involving all operation with whole numbers including quotients with division limited to four-digit dividends and 2-digit divisors Solves problems involving addition and subtraction with decimals to tenths Identifies the quotient of whole numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses whole number exponents to denote powers of 10 Uses place value to round decimals to any place Fluently multiplies multi-digit whole numbers Writes decimals to thousandths using base ten numerals, number names, expanded form and comparison symbols Compares decimals using base ten numerals, number names and comparison symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$ Uses various strategies to solve problems involving all operation with whole numbers including quotients with division limited to four-digit dividends and 2-digit divisors and explains using rectangular arrays and/or area models Applies understandings of models for decimals, place value, and properties of operations to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals to hundredths Solves mathematical and real-world problems involving multiplication of whole numbers and decimals to hundredths using the standard algorithm. Uses models to find the quotients of whole numbers. Solves problems involving all operations on decimals to hundredths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses place value understanding of multi-digit numbers including decimals to explain patterns in the number of zeros and the placement of the decimal point, when multiplying a number by powers of 10. Compares decimals using expanded form Makes reasonable estimates of decimal results Explains understandings of models for decimals, decimal notation, and properties of operations to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals to hundredths Uses the relationship between decimals and fractions, as well as the relationship between finite decimals and whole numbers to understand and explain why the procedures for multiplying and dividing finite decimals make sense.

Mathematics Grade 5	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Number and Operations – Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds and subtracts fractions with like denominators (including mixed numbers) Uses visual fraction models to multiply fractions or whole numbers by fractions Finds areas or rectangles with fractional side lengths by tiling with unit squares Recognizes multiplication as scaling by comparing the factors with computation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds and subtracts fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers) Uses visual fraction models to solve real-world problems by multiplying fractions or whole numbers by fractions, and fractions by mixed numbers Shows that the area of rectangles with fractional side lengths, found by tiling with unit squares, is the same as multiplying the side lengths Recognizes multiplication as scaling by comparing the factors without computation Interprets division of a unit fraction by a non-zero whole number and division of a whole number Solves real-world and mathematical problems involving division of a unit fraction by a non-zero whole number and a whole number by a unit fraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies understanding of fractions and fraction models to represent the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators as equivalent calculations with like denominators in the context of solving word problems. Uses understanding of fraction equivalence to make sense of sums and differences of fractions and makes reasonable estimates of them. Uses the relationship between multiplication and division of fractions to solve and explain mathematical and real-world problems including finding the area of rectangles with fractional side lengths, finding quotients of division of non-zero whole number by unit fractions
Measurement and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converts among different-sized measurement units within a given measurement system Interprets and represents data presented in line plots (dot plots) to solve problems Recognizes volume as an attribute of solid figures and calculates volume of right rectangular prisms by packing it with unit cubes, counting unit cubes, and with standard and non-standard units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies conversion among different-sized measurement units within a given measurement system to solve multi-step real-world problems Uses a line plot (dot plot) to represent data and uses operations on fractions to solve problems involving the line plots Recognizes volume as additive and calculates volume by finding the total number of same-size units of volume required to fill a space without gaps or overlaps. Decomposes three-dimensional shapes and finds volumes of right rectangular prisms by viewing them as decomposed into layers of arrays of cubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses appropriate units, strategies, and tools for solving problems that involve estimating and measuring volume with application of the volume formula Decomposes three-dimensional shapes and finds volumes of right rectangular prisms by viewing them as decomposed into layers of arrays of cubes and relate to the volume formula Solves real world application problems requiring the application of $V = lwh$ and $V = Bh$
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents mathematical and real-world problems by locating points in the first quadrant Identifies two-dimensional figures based on properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents mathematical and real-world problems by locating and graphing in the first quadrant Classifies two-dimensional figures in a hierarchy based on properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solves mathematical and real-world problems by graphing in the first quadrant and interpreting the coordinate values of points based on the context of the situation Applies knowledge of number and length to the order and distance relationships of a coordinate plane

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 6

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 6	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
The Number System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets quotients of fractions to solve problems • Identifies greatest common factors or least common multiples • Uses positive and negative numbers to describe quantities having opposite directions or values • Solves mathematical problems by using all operations on multi-digit decimals • Graphs ordered pairs in all four quadrants to solve problems • Interprets statements of order for rational numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computes quotients of fractions to solve problems • Uses prime factorization to find the greatest common factors, least common multiples to solve problems • Represents quantities in real-world context on a number line, explaining the meaning of zero • Uses the understanding of structure to explain the standard algorithm to divide multi-digit numbers • Uses the standard algorithm to fluently operate on multi-digit decimals • Finds the absolute value of a rational number by recognizing its distance from zero on the number line • Uses the standard algorithm to divide multi-digit numbers • Computes all operations on multi-digit decimals • Solve problems by graphing in all four quadrants and finds distances between points with same first coordinate or same second coordinate • Interprets and writes statements of order for rational numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies interpretation of quotients of fractions to solving word problems • Uses visual fraction models to solve word problems involving computing quotients of fractions • Applies number theory concepts to the solution of problems. • Solves problems involving order and absolute value of rational numbers

Mathematics Grade 6	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies part to part and part to whole relationships Uses rate language in the context of a ratio relationship Sometimes solves unit rate problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solves problems requiring part to part ratios to be converted to part to whole ratios Consistently solves unit rate problems Uses rate reasoning to solve problems Finds the percent of a quantity Uses ratio reasoning to convert measurement units within measurement systems Interprets and manipulates models with ratios such as tape diagrams, tables, and double number lines to compare ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determines what percent of a quantity is a given amount Explains when to use part to part ratios, and when to use part to whole ratios to solve problems Uses ratio reasoning to convert measurement units between measurement systems Creates models with ratios such as tape diagrams, tables, and double number lines to compare ratios Relates mass of an object to its volume to solve problems
Expressions and Equations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates given expressions and equations involving whole-number exponents to solve problems Identifies parts of an expression using mathematical terms (sum, term, product, factor, quotient, coefficient) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interprets, evaluates, and writes expressions and equations involving whole-number exponents Views one or more parts of an expression as a single entity Generate and identify equivalent expressions Relates tables and graphs to equations Writes and solves equations of the form $x + p = q$ and $px = q$ Solves and graphs inequalities that represent a constraint or condition in a mathematical or real-world problem. Analyzes the relationships between dependent and independent variables in real-world problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes and graphs inequalities that represent a constraint or condition in a mathematical or real-world problem Creates equations of the form $x + p = q$ and $px = q$ from a given situation Uses equations to describe relationships between quantities

Mathematics Grade 6	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves mathematical problems involving areas of triangles, including right triangles and quadrilaterals • Solves mathematical problems involving volume of right rectangular prisms with whole number edge lengths • Represents three-dimensional figures using nets • Given coordinates of a polygon, draws the polygon on a coordinate plane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves real-world problems involving areas of triangles, including right triangles and quadrilaterals by decomposing shapes, rearranging or removing pieces, and relating shapes to rectangles • Finds volume of right rectangular prisms with fractional edge lengths • Uses nets of three-dimensional figures to find the surface area • Given coordinates of a polygon on a coordinate plane, finds lengths of the sides of the polygon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons about geometric shapes and their measurements • Develops, and justifies formulas to solve mathematical and real-world problems that involve areas of triangles, including right triangles, and quadrilaterals • Applies the formula for volume of right rectangular prisms with fractional edge lengths • Applies knowledge of nets to solve mathematical and real-world problems involving surface area • Given coordinates of a polygon (without a coordinate plane), finds lengths of the sides of the polygon and applies these techniques to solve real-world problems
Statistics and Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes a statistical question • Visually recognizes measures of center and variability • Interprets dot plots and histograms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve problems involving finding the measures of center and variability • Constructs dot plots, histograms, box plots and circle graphs given real-world situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes that a data distribution may not have a definite center, and different ways to measure center can yield different values, and uses this understanding to interpret a situation • Describes and summarizes numerical data sets, identifying clusters, peaks, gaps, and symmetry in a real-world problem

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 7

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 7	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
The Number System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents addition and subtraction on a horizontal and vertical number line • Operates with rational numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes situations in which opposite quantities combine to make zero • Operates with rational numbers in mathematical and real-world problems • Translates between rational numbers and decimals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translates from repeating decimal form of a rational number to fraction form • Interprets quotient and remainder of rational numbers • Applies properties of operations as strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes a proportional relationship • Uses ratios and proportionality to solve simple mathematical problems, including percent problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents a proportional relationship by equations • Sometimes uses ratios and proportionality to solve multi-step mathematical and real-world problems, including percent problems • Interprets the meaning of any point on a graph of a proportional relationship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently uses ratios and proportionality to solve multi-step mathematical and real-world problems, including percent problems
Expressions and Equations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses properties of operations to add and subtract linear expressions • Solves simple mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations • Identifies simple arithmetic and geometric sequences from tables, graphs, words, and expressions. • Extends patterns in simple arithmetic and geometric sequences from tables, graphs, words, and expressions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses properties of operations to expand linear expressions • Uses properties of operations to factor linear expressions • Given a real-world problem, rewrites expressions in different forms to show understanding of the problem • Interprets the solution of an inequality in a real-world problem • Solves multi-step mathematical and real-world problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations • Fluently converts between different forms • Create equations and inequalities to solve problems • Graphs the solutions of an inequality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses properties of operations to factor linear expressions and interprets the result in the context of a problem • Justifies solutions to multi-step problems • Analyzes patterns and determines expressions for simple arithmetic and geometric sequences using tables, graphs, words, and expressions

Mathematics Grade 7	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws triangles with given conditions • Applies the formulas to find the circumference of circles • Applies the formulas to find the area of two-dimensional figures, including circles • Recognizes attributes of angles (supplementary, complementary, vertical, adjacent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructs triangles with given conditions and describes some of their attributes • Describes the shape of the two-dimensional face of the figure that results from slicing three-dimensional figures. • Solves problems involving the relationship between area and circumference of circles • Solves problems involving the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes • Solves mathematical problems involving scale drawings • Solves multi-step problems using attributes of angles (supplementary, complementary, vertical, adjacent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finds unknown supplementary, complementary, vertical, and adjacent angles by solving equations
Statistics and Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes inferences about a population by examining the sample population • Visually compares two populations based on measures of center and variability • Differentiates between representative and non-representative samples • Identifies probability as a number between 0 and 1 • Finds probabilities of simple events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses random sampling to draw inferences about a population • Recognizes the probabilities of 0 through 1 as likely, unlikely, or neither. • Develops probability models and uses it to find probabilities of events • Finds probabilities for compound events using organized lists, tables, and tree diagrams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluates probability models • Designs and uses a simulation to generate frequencies for compound events • Computes the differences of the centers as a multiple of the measure of variability for two populations

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 8

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 8	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
The Number System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguishes between rational and irrational numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes that rational and irrational numbers have decimal expansions Uses rational approximations of irrational numbers to compare the size of irrational numbers Finds approximate location of irrational numbers on the number line Finds rational approximations of irrational numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates the values of expressions with irrational numbers Converts a decimal expansion which repeats eventually to a rational number
Expressions and Equations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the properties of integer exponents Know that $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational Uses and evaluates square roots of small squares Graphs proportional relationships, and identifies the unit rate as the slope Solves one-variable linear equations with one or many solutions Recognizes that the point of intersection of two linear equations is the solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies the properties of integer exponents to generate equivalent expressions Performs operations with decimals and scientific notation Uses and evaluates cube roots of small cubes Uses numbers in the form of a single digit times an integer power of 10 to estimate the magnitude and relationships of quantities Uses scientific notation and chooses appropriate units of measurement for varying magnitudes Uses linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent and solve problems. Compares proportional relationships represented in different ways Recognizes the difference between proportional and non-proportional in linear relationships Solves one-variable linear equations with rational coefficients Solves systems of two linear equations algebraically or graphically in real-world and mathematical problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses numbers in the form of a single digit times an integer power of 10 to estimate the magnitude and interpret relationships of quantities in word problems Uses linear equations and systems of linear equations to represent, analyze, and solve problems. Use similar triangles to explain why the slope is the same between any two distinct points on a non-vertical line in the coordinate plane Derives the equation $y=mx$ for a line through the origin and the equation $y=mx + b$ for a line intercepting the vertical axis b Estimates solutions to systems of two equations from a graph Uses understanding of a proportional relationship and structure to interpret the meaning of b, the vertical axis intercept

Mathematics Grade 8	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies a relationship as a function • Interprets the equation of a linear function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines the rate of change and initial value of a function from a table or graph • Compares the properties of functions represented in different ways • Writes a function to model a linear relationship • Determines the rate of change of a function from a table, graph, or description • Describes or sketches functional relationships represented graphically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies functions as linear and non-linear from graphs or equations • Interprets the rate of change of a function from a table, graph, equation, or description
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the properties of rotations, reflections and translations • Uses the relationship among the sides of a right triangle to solve problems • Translates and reflects two dimensional figures • Uses Pythagorean theorem to find the hypotenuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the congruence relationship between two congruent figures • Describes the effect of transformations on two-dimensional figures using coordinates • Describes the similarity relationship between two similar figures • Rotates two-dimensional figures around the origin • Finds angle sum and exterior angle of triangles, angles created when parallel lines are cut by a transversal, and angle-angle criterion for similarity of triangles • Applies the Pythagorean theorem to find distances between points on the coordinate plane • Applies the Pythagorean theorem to determine the unknown side lengths in right triangles in mathematical and real-world problems • Solves mathematical and real-world problems involving volume of cones, cylinders, and spheres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use informal arguments to establish facts about the angle sum and exterior angle of triangles, angles created when parallel lines are cut by a transversal, and angle-angle criterion for similarity of triangles • Justifies Pythagorean theorem and its converse • Given the volume of a cone, finds unknown dimensions of the cone • Given the volume of a cylinder, finds unknown dimensions of the cylinder • Given the volume of a sphere, finds unknown dimensions of the sphere
Statistics and Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the patterns associated with bivariate data • Identifies and constructs a line of best fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructs and interprets scatter plots • Constructs and interprets two-way tables • Uses the equation of a linear model to solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets the slope and intercept of linear models • Analyzes scatter plots • Analyzes relative frequencies in two-way tables

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Mathematics

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

MCAS Achievement-Level Descriptors

Mathematics: Grade 10

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Mathematics Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Number and Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrites expressions involving integer exponents using the properties of exponents • Uses units as a way to understand problems and chooses units consistently in formulas • Chooses the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays • Identifies significant figures in recorded measures and computed values based on the context given and the precision of the tools used to measure • Identifies appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrites expressions involving radical and rational exponents using the properties of exponents • Performs operations on rational and irrational numbers • Determines whether the solution of operations on two numbers would be rational or irrational • Interprets units consistently in formulas and uses units to solve multi-step problems. • Interprets the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays • Defines appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling • Chooses a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities • Describes the effects of approximate error in measurement and rounding on measurements and on computed values from measurements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains how the definition of the meaning of rational exponents follows from extending the properties of integer exponents to those values, allowing for a notation for radicals in terms of radical exponents • Explains why the sum or product of two rational numbers is rational; that the sum of a rational number and an irrational number is irrational; and that the product of a nonzero rational number and an irrational number is irrational
Algebra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually interprets parts and structures of linear expressions • Chooses an equivalent form of an expression to reveal properties of the quantity represented by the expression • Identifies, combines, and expands like terms when performing operations on polynomial expressions • Creates linear equations and inequalities in one variable and uses them to solve problems • Creates equations in two variables to represent relations between quantities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently interprets parts of an expression based on real-world context • Usually interprets the structure of quadratic and exponential expressions with integer exponents • Factors polynomial expressions • Creates quadratic and exponential equations in one variable and uses them to solve problems • Creates equations with more than two variables • Represents constraints by linear equations/inequalities and by systems of linear equations/inequalities • Constructs viable arguments to justify or refute a solution method for linear equations/inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets complicated expressions by viewing one or more of their parts as a single entity • Chooses and produces an equivalent form of an expression to explain properties of the quantity represented by the expression • Completes the square in a quadratic expression to reveal the maximum or minimum value of the function it defines • Recognizes that the system of polynomials is similar to the system of integers in that they are both closed under certain operations • Interprets solutions of linear equations or inequalities as viable or non-viable options in a modeling context

Mathematics Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphs the equations on coordinate axes with labels and scales • Rearranges formulas to highlight a quantity of interest using the same reasoning as in solving equations • Solves and explains each step in solving linear equations and inequalities in one variable • Solves system of linear equations exactly and approximately • Knows that the graph of an equation in two variables is the set of all its solutions • Graphs the solutions of linear inequality in two variables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually solves linear equation/inequalities in one variable involving absolute value • Solves a simple system consisting of a linear equation and a quadratic equation in two variables algebraically and graphically • Finds and is able to explain the solutions of linear equations $y = f(x)$ and $y = g(x)$ approximately, using technology to graph the functions and make tables of values • Graphs the solution set of a system of linear inequalities in two variables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the method of completing the square to transform any quadratic equation in x into an equation of the form $(x - p)^2 = q$ that has the same solutions • Derives the quadratic formula • Recognizes when solutions of a quadratic equation results in non-real solutions and write them as $a \pm bi$ for real numbers a and b • Proves that, given a system of equations in two variables, replacing one equation by the sum of that equation and a multiple of the other to produces a system with the same solutions
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows the structure of a function and uses function notation to evaluate and interpret functions • Distinguishes between an arithmetic and a geometric sequence • Interprets key features of graphs and tables for a function that models a relationship • Calculates and interprets the average rate of change of a function presented symbolically or as a table • Graphs linear functions to show intercepts • Compares properties of functions each represented algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables, or by verbal descriptions • Distinguishes between situations that model linear functions and exponential functions • Constructs linear functions given a graph, a description of a relationship, or input-output pairs • Draws comparisons between exponential and linear graphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interprets symmetries of graphs and tables in terms of the quantities • Relates the domain of a function to its graph • Estimates the rate of change from a graph. • Graphs functions and uses the properties of functions to create equivalent functions • Interprets zeros, maximum/minimum values, and symmetry of the graph • Writes quadratic and exponential functions to describe relationship between quantities • Determines an explicit expression or steps for calculation from a context • Writes arithmetic and geometric sequences both recursively and with an explicit formula • Identifies the effect on a graph of a function by replacing $f(x)$ with $f(x) + k$, $kf(x)$, $f(kx)$, and $f(x + k)$ for specific values of k • Finds the inverse of a linear function • Constructs exponential functions given a graph, a description of a relationship, or input-output pairs • Draws comparisons between exponential and quadratic graphs • Interprets the parameters in a linear function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes that sequences are functions that are sometimes defined recursively • Interprets relative maximums and minimums and end behavior of graphs and tables in terms of the quantities • Uses graphs to show relative maximums and minimums; symmetries; and end behavior • Graphs piecewise-defined functions, including step functions • Creates equivalent functions to explain different properties of the function • Uses process of completing the square in a quadratic function to show zeros, maximum/minimum values, and symmetry of the graph • Determines a recursive process, or steps for calculation from a context • Uses recursive and explicit formulas to model situations, and translates between the two forms • Utilizes technology to experiment with cases and illustrates an explanation of the effects on the graph of linear, quadratic, exponential, or absolute value functions • Interprets the parameters in an exponential function

Mathematics Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows precise definitions of angle, circle, perpendicular line, parallel line, and line segment, based on the undefined notions of point, line, distance along a line, and distance around a circular arc • Represents rigid transformations in the plane • Compares transformations that preserve distance and angle to those that do not and identifies a sequence of transformations that will carry a given figure onto another • Finds angle sum and exterior angle of triangles, angles created when parallel lines are cut by a transversal, and angle-angle criterion for similarity of triangles • Uses congruence and similarity criteria for triangles to solve problems • Uses Pythagorean Theorem to solve right triangles • Uses coordinates to compute perimeters of polygons and areas of triangles and rectangles • Uses volume formulas for cylinders, cones, and spheres to solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses geometric descriptions of rigid motions to solve problems • Applies properties of polygons to the solutions of problems • Verifies experimentally the properties of dilations given by a center and a scale factor • Uses congruence and similarity criteria for triangles to prove relationships in geometric figures • Knows that by similarity, side ratios in right triangles are properties of the angles in the triangle, leading to definitions of trigonometric ratios for acute angles • Uses Pythagorean Theorem to solve right triangles in applied problems • Identifies relationships among inscribed angles, radii, and chords • Uses the fact that the length of the arc intercepted by an angle is proportional to the radius to solve problems • Uses the slope criteria for parallel and perpendicular lines to solve geometric problems • Finds the point on a directed line segment between two given points that partitions the segment in a given ratio • Uses volume formulas for pyramids to solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops definitions of rotations, reflections, and translations in terms of angles, circles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines, and line segments • Explains how the criteria for triangle congruence follow from the definition of congruence in terms of rigid motions • Makes formal geometric constructions • Proves theorems about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ triangles ○ parallelograms ○ circles ○ polygons • Proves the Pythagorean Theorem using triangle similarity • Explains the relationship between the sine and cosine of complementary angles • Uses trigonometric ratios to solve right triangles in applied problems • Uses relationships among inscribed angles, radii, and chords to solve problems • Derives the formula for the area of a sector. • Derives the equation of a circle to find the center and the radius • Derives the equation of a parabola given a focus and directrix • Uses coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically, including the distance formula and its relationship to the Pythagorean Theorem • Proves the slope criteria for parallel and perpendicular lines • Uses dissection arguments, Cavalieri's principle, and informal limit arguments to give an informal argument for the formulas for the circumference of a circle, area of a circle, volume of a cylinder, pyramid, and cone

Mathematics Grade 10	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Statistics and Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents data with plots on the real number line • Usually uses statistics appropriate to the shape of the data distribution to compare center and spread of two or more different data sets • Usually interprets differences in shape, center, and spread in the context of the data sets, accounting for possible effects of extreme data points (outliers) • Interprets relative frequencies in the context of the data • Represents data on two quantitative variables on a scatter plot and describes how the data are related • Fits a linear function for a scatter plot that suggests a linear association and interprets the slope and the intercept of the model • Informally assesses the fit of a function by plotting and analyzing residuals • Describes events as subsets of a sample space using characteristics of the outcomes, or as unions, intersections, or complements of other events • Constructs and interprets two-way frequency tables of data when two categories are associated with each object being classified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently uses statistics appropriate to the shape of the data distribution to compare center and spread of two or more different data sets • Consistently interprets differences in shape, center, and spread in the context of the data sets, accounting for possible effects of extreme data points (outliers) • Recognizes possible associations and trends in the data contained in a two-way frequency table • Fits a linear function to the data and uses the fitted function to solve problems in the context of the data • Computes and interprets the correlation coefficient of a linear fit • Distinguish between dependent and independent events • Uses a two-way table to approximate conditional probabilities • Recognizes the concepts of conditional probability and independence in everyday language and everyday situations • Applies the addition rule to calculate probabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies the addition rule and interprets the answer in terms of the model • Distinguishes between correlation and causation • Knows that the conditional probability of A given B is $P(A \text{ and } B)/P(B)$ and uses it to solve problems • Explains the concepts of conditional probability and independence in everyday language and everyday situations

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

Grade 5 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

STE Grade 5	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Understanding and Application of Disciplinary Core Ideas	<p>Demonstrates a partial understanding of some scientific concepts and processes by identifying and sometimes describing or providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Uses some basic scientific terms in common scientific examples.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a solid understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by mostly describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Mostly applies appropriate scientific terms in a variety of applications, including common science examples and some novel situations.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by consistently describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Consistently applies scientific terms in appropriate contexts in both common science examples and many novel situations.</p>
Understanding and Application of Scientific and Engineering Practices	<p>Identifies a testable, scientific question for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes a simple, commonly used model.</p> <p>Uses simple graphs or data to draw general conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Identifies evidence to support a claim.</p> <p>Describes a benefit or drawback of simple design features given a familiar device or prototype.</p>	<p>Develops some testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes or uses a model and describes some strengths and weaknesses of the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides some evidence to support a claim and constructs basic explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a familiar device or prototype and describes a benefit or drawback of the design.</p>	<p>Consistently develops testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Creates a model, consistently describes the strengths and weaknesses of the model, and provides information for how to improve the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a novel or complex scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides several pieces of evidence to support a claim and constructs thorough explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a novel device or prototype and constructs an explanation for how the design features meet criteria for success or are limited by constraints.</p>

Grade 5 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Earth and Space Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe	<p>Identifies the Sun, the Moon, and Earth in a model.</p> <p>Recognizes that the Sun is a star.</p> <p>Recognizes that people at different locations on Earth may experience day and night at the same time.</p> <p>Given a pattern of moon phases, selects the Moon phase that completes the pattern.</p> <p>Recognizes that shadows change over the course of a day because of the apparent movement of the Sun.</p> <p>Supports a claim with evidence that an environment has changed over time, such as a forested area that was once covered by water.</p> <p>Classifies whether geologic structures were formed by erosion or deposition.</p>	<p>Completes a model of the Sun, the Moon, and Earth and mostly describes the movements of each.</p> <p>Recognizes that the Sun is the only star in our solar system.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for why people on Earth experience day and night.</p> <p>Describes how the Moon reflects the Sun's light and makes a pattern over approximately one month.</p> <p>Uses a model to show the pattern of the Moon over a week or a month.</p> <p>Completes a model showing the relationship between a shadow's length and the position of the Sun in the sky.</p> <p>Generally, describes the processes of erosion or deposition.</p> <p>Identifies the relative age of rock layers based on the position of the rock layers.</p>	<p>Develops a model of the Sun, the Moon, and Earth and consistently describes the movements of each.</p> <p>Explains why the Sun appears brighter than other stars.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation with evidence for why people at one location on Earth are experiencing day while people at another location on Earth are experiencing night.</p> <p>Explains how the Moon's reflection of the Sun's light and the orbit of the Moon are responsible for the phases of the Moon.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for why the length and direction of a shadow changes during a day.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation with evidence of how erosion and deposition can change geologic structures or an area over time.</p>

Earth and Space Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
ESS2. Earth's Systems	<p>Uses weather data tables or simple graphs to describe one of the following: precipitation, wind speed, or temperature for an area.</p> <p>Differentiates between two different types of climates.</p> <p>Completes a simple model of the water cycle.</p> <p>Identifies on a map where a volcano or earthquake is likely to occur.</p> <p>Recognizes evidence of weathering or erosion in a diagram or simple description.</p> <p>Interprets simple graphs to draw general conclusions about the relative amounts of fresh and saltwater on Earth.</p>	<p>Analyzes simple weather data patterns to describe expected weather for an area.</p> <p>Analyzes climate data for several different regions and describes differences in weather patterns. Recognizes that different regions can have different climate types.</p> <p>Completes a model of the water cycle and describes what is happening in most of the water cycle stages.</p> <p>Analyzes a map to locate where mountain ranges, ocean trenches, volcanoes, and earthquakes are likely to occur.</p> <p>Describes the processes of weathering and erosion and applies them to common examples, such as landslides, canyons, valleys, etc.</p> <p>Analyzes a map to identify water sources as fresh or saltwater, including fresh water stored in glaciers and polar ice caps.</p>	<p>Analyzes and interprets graphs and tables to draw conclusions about various weather patterns.</p> <p>Explains the difference between weather and climate and uses climate data to draw conclusions about the expected weather patterns of different climate types (e.g., desert, tropical, tundra).</p> <p>Develops a model of the water cycle, including absorption and surface runoff, and describes how heat energy is needed for water to cycle.</p> <p>Explains why mountain ranges, ocean trenches, volcanoes, and earthquakes occur at plate boundaries.</p> <p>Explains how landscapes change due to weathering and erosion and provides examples of each process.</p> <p>Describes different sources of fresh water and saltwater and explains why it is important to understand the relative amounts of these types of water on Earth.</p>
ESS3. Earth and Human Activity	<p>Categorizes some common examples of renewable and nonrenewable energy resources.</p> <p>Identifies one way to reduce human impact on the environment for a given situation.</p> <p>Identifies one design solution to reduce the impact of a weather event, such as a hurricane, or other natural event, such as an earthquake, on humans.</p> <p>Identifies a testable question about a filter to determine how well the filter will work.</p>	<p>Explains why some sources of energy are considered renewable and others are not.</p> <p>Consistently categorizes energy sources as either renewable or nonrenewable.</p> <p>Describes different ways to reduce human impact on the environment for a given situation.</p> <p>Identifies multiple design solutions to reduce the impact of a weather event or other natural event on humans.</p> <p>Develops a testable question about how to improve the design of a filtering system and provides information about how to answer the question.</p>	<p>Explains how humans have impacted the environment in different ways and constructs explanations for how to reduce those impacts on the environment.</p> <p>Identifies multiple design solutions to reduce the impact of a weather event or other natural event on humans and explains how each design solution could reduce the impact.</p> <p>Develops testable questions about how to make several improvements to the design of a filtering system and provides evidence for how the improvements will better filter the water.</p>

Grade 5 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Life Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes	<p>Completes a model of an organism’s life cycle and describes the importance of one stage of the life cycle.</p> <p>Supports a claim with evidence about how the function of an animal or plant structure helps it to survive.</p> <p>Recognizes that photosynthesis is important for the survival of a plant.</p>	<p>Compares the life cycles of two organisms and describes similarities between the two life cycles, including the importance of some of the stages.</p> <p>Supports claims with evidence about how different functions of animal or plant structures help the animal or plant to survive.</p> <p>Completes a model showing some of the inputs (sunlight, air, water) or outputs (sugars) of photosynthesis.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for why each stage of the life cycle is important, using examples of both plants and animals.</p> <p>Supports claims with evidence about how several structures of animals and plants allow for the survival, growth, and reproduction of different organisms.</p> <p>Develops a model showing the inputs and outputs of photosynthesis and explains the importance of photosynthesis for the survival and growth of a plant.</p>
LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics	<p>Analyzes a simple food web or other model and identifies the ecological role of some of the organisms.</p> <p>Recognizes that the energy organisms depend on originates from the Sun.</p> <p>Describes one way animals and plants use energy.</p> <p>Identifies the function of a composteur and one design element of a composteur.</p> <p>Identifies a type of organism (bacteria or fungi) that breaks down dead organisms.</p>	<p>Analyzes a food web or other model, identifies the ecological roles of several of the organisms, and describes some of the roles of the organisms.</p> <p>Analyzes a model and describes the flow of energy through a simple food web.</p> <p>Analyzes several composteur designs and describes some advantages and disadvantages of each design.</p> <p>Describes the importance of decomposers in recycling matter back to the soil.</p>	<p>Analyzes food webs and other models and consistently describes the ecological roles of the organisms.</p> <p>Completes a model to show energy transfer through a food web and describes how energy is transferred from one organism to another.</p> <p>Analyzes several composteur designs, describes several advantages and disadvantages of each, and explains which composteur is best to use.</p> <p>Explains what would happen to an ecosystem without decomposers and explains how decomposers recycle matter back into both the soil and air.</p>

Life Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits	<p>Provides observable evidence that traits are inherited from a parent.</p> <p>Recognizes that some basic characteristics are inherited, while others are a result of the environment.</p>	<p>Analyzes data and draws some conclusions about familiar traits that are inherited and characteristics that are a result of the environment.</p>	<p>Analyzes novel data and draws conclusions about traits that are inherited and characteristics that are a result of the environment.</p>
LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	<p>Identifies the type of environment where an organism once lived based on fossilized remains.</p> <p>Supports a claim with one piece of evidence for how some individuals within a population may have a survival advantage over other individuals in the population.</p> <p>Uses evidence, such as an organism's structure, to describe how an organism is well adapted to its environment.</p> <p>Recognizes what may happen to an organism if its environment changes and it is unable to move away.</p>	<p>Classifies fossils based on their physical characteristics, including the type of environment where the fossilized organism once lived.</p> <p>Supports a claim with several pieces of evidence for how some individuals within a population may have a survival advantage over other individuals in the population.</p> <p>Identifies an example of how an organism is well adapted to its environment.</p> <p>Describes what will happen to a population if individuals within that population are unable to reproduce.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for why the fossil record is incomplete due to many organisms not being fossilized.</p> <p>Given data about the characteristics of a novel organism, draws conclusions and explains how the organism is well adapted to its environment.</p> <p>Explains, with evidence, if an organism is likely to survive environmental changes.</p> <p>Explains why reproduction is critical to the survival of a species.</p>

Grade 5 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Physical Science	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
PS1. Matter and Its Interactions	<p>Analyzes a simple particle model of matter and identifies the phase of the substance.</p> <p>Completes a graph to show the masses of substances after a phase change or after a chemical reaction.</p> <p>Analyzes a simple set of data to determine the best material to use in a common situation, based on the material's characteristic properties.</p> <p>Determines if a chemical reaction occurred or if a mixture was formed during an investigation and provides one piece of evidence to support the claim.</p>	<p>Analyzes a particle model of a substance before and after a phase change to determine phases of the substance and the phase change that occurred.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about how mass is conserved during a phase change or a chemical reaction.</p> <p>Analyzes a set of data about materials, identifies the best material to use in a given situation, and provides evidence for the reasoning.</p> <p>Develops a question to determine if a chemical reaction occurred or if a mixture was formed during an investigation and provides possible answers to the question with pieces of evidence to support the answers.</p>	<p>Analyzes particle models of substances before and after phase changes to determine the phase change that occurred and describes whether heat was added or removed.</p> <p>Describes an investigation that could be used to show that mass is conserved during a phase change or chemical reaction.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sets of data to determine the best materials to use in a variety of different situations, based on the material's characteristic properties. Supports the conclusions with evidence from the data.</p> <p>Describes an investigation that could be used to determine if a chemical reaction will occur or if a mixture will be formed when two substances are combined and includes information about evidence that would be needed to make the determination.</p>
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions	<p>Interprets a diagram to determine if balanced forces are acting on an object.</p> <p>Labels a model showing the direction of the gravitational force on an object on Earth.</p> <p>Identifies if two magnets will be attracted to each other or repelled from each other based on the magnets' orientations.</p> <p>Recognizes that either an attractive or a repulsive force exists between two magnets.</p>	<p>Determines if the motion of an object will change, based on a diagram showing the forces acting on the object.</p> <p>Describes how friction affects the motion of an object.</p> <p>Completes a model showing the direction of the gravitational force on multiple objects that are on or near the surface of Earth.</p> <p>Completes a model of the poles on several magnets based on whether the magnets attract each other or repel each other.</p>	<p>Completes a diagram of the forces acting on an object based on whether the object is at rest, moving at a constant speed, or changing speed and explains the reasoning.</p> <p>Describes how different surface textures affect friction.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects always being toward the center of Earth.</p> <p>Describes an investigation that could be used to determine the poles of magnets and explains what evidence could be used to make this determination.</p>

Physical Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
PS3. Energy	<p>Interprets a graph that shows the relationship between speed and kinetic energy.</p> <p>Identifies one type of energy that is produced when a collision occurs.</p> <p>Describes one way that energy can be moved from one place to another.</p> <p>Interprets a familiar situation to describe one way that stored energy is converted to another type of energy.</p>	<p>Describes the relationship between the speed of an object and the kinetic energy of that object.</p> <p>Describes the energy conversions that take place when two objects collide.</p> <p>Interprets a given scenario and describe one way that energy is transferred in the scenario.</p> <p>Describes two energy conversions in a given situation including kinetic energy being converted to electrical energy and/or stored energy being converted into another type of energy.</p>	<p>Completes a graph showing the kinetic energy of object as the speed of the object changes and explains why the graph should be completed in that way.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about the energy conversions that take place when two objects collide and supports the explanation with evidence.</p> <p>Analyzes a novel scenario and describes multiple ways that energy is transferred from place to place and how energy is converted in multiple ways.</p>
PS4. Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer	<p>Recognizes that waves can cause an object to move.</p> <p>Uses a simple model of a wave to show that the wave has a regular pattern.</p> <p>Recognizes that light must be reflected off an object and enter the eye for the object to be seen.</p> <p>Given a communication system, identifies one component (encoder, decoder, receiver, sender) of the system.</p>	<p>Generally, describes that waves carry energy and can cause objects to move.</p> <p>Completes a model showing that a wave has a regular pattern of motion.</p> <p>Develops a model to show how light reflects off an object and enters the eye so the object can be seen.</p> <p>Describes at least two components of a given communication system.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation about how an object can be moved by the energy of a wave.</p> <p>Explains how objects are seen by the eye, using evidence from a given scenario.</p> <p>Consistently describes the components of a communication system for a given scenario.</p>

Grade 5 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Science and Technology/Engineering

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Technology/ Engineering	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
ETS1. Engineering Design and ETS3. Technological Systems	<p>Identifies a criterion for success and a constraint when given a simple design problem.</p> <p>Identifies one solution to a simple engineering design problem.</p> <p>Analyzes different representations of a simple design solution and chooses the most appropriate one for a given situation.</p> <p>Identifies the importance of a prototype.</p> <p>Identifies the difference between an innovation and an invention.</p>	<p>Describes several criteria for success and constraints when given a design problem.</p> <p>Generates a solution to an engineering design problem and generally explains how the solution could be successful based on evidence.</p> <p>Analyzes different representations of a design solution, chooses the most appropriate representation for the given situation, and explains the reasoning.</p> <p>Identifies several design features of a prototype and explains how these features are important to the design of the prototype.</p> <p>Analyzes a design feature of a prototype and explains the importance of a prototype.</p> <p>Describes one innovation to an existing technology.</p> <p>Provides an example of an invention, including common examples and some novel examples.</p>	<p>Explains how certain criteria for success and constraints will impact the solution to a design problem.</p> <p>Generates two or more solutions to an engineering design problem and explains in detail how the solutions could be successful and identifies possible failure points for each solution.</p> <p>Describes an appropriate representation for a design solution and explains the reasoning.</p> <p>Describes several design features of prototypes and explains the benefits and possible limitations of each.</p> <p>Explains why prototypes are constructed and explains the importance of redesigning a prototype.</p> <p>Explains why a novel technology is an innovation or an invention, given a description of the technology.</p>

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

Grade 8 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

STE Grade 8	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Understanding and Application of Disciplinary Core Ideas	<p>Demonstrates a partial understanding of some scientific concepts and processes by identifying and sometimes describing or providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Uses some basic scientific terms in common scientific examples.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a solid understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by mostly describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Mostly applies appropriate scientific terms in a variety of applications, including common science examples and some novel situations.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by consistently describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Consistently applies scientific terms in appropriate contexts in both common science examples and many novel situations.</p>
Understanding and Application of Scientific and Engineering Practices	<p>Identifies a testable, scientific question for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes a simple, commonly used model.</p> <p>Uses simple graphs or data to draw general conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Identifies evidence to support a claim.</p> <p>Describes a benefit or drawback of simple design features given a familiar device or prototype.</p>	<p>Develops some testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes or uses a model and describes some strengths and weaknesses of the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides some evidence to support a claim and constructs basic explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a familiar device or prototype and describes a benefit or drawback of the design.</p>	<p>Consistently develops testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Creates a model, consistently describes the strengths and weaknesses of the model, and provides information for how to improve the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a novel or complex scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides several pieces of evidence to support a claim and constructs thorough explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a novel device or prototype and constructs an explanation for how the design features meet criteria for success or are limited by constraints.</p>

Grade 8 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Earth and Space Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe	<p>Completes a model of the Earth-Sun-Moon system to show either a solar or a lunar eclipse.</p> <p>Identifies the basic pattern of the moon phases.</p> <p>Recognizes that the tilt of Earth's axis causes the seasons.</p> <p>Recognizes that gravity affects high and low tides, Earth's orbit, and the Moon's orbit.</p> <p>Recognizes that the Milky Way galaxy contains many solar systems, and that Earth is one planet within our solar system.</p> <p>Identifies the bottom layer of rock as the oldest and the top layer of rock as the youngest.</p> <p>Identifies some of the processes that play a role in the formation of rock.</p>	<p>Develops a model showing the positions of the Sun, the Moon, and Earth during a solar or a lunar eclipse.</p> <p>Completes a model of the moon phases.</p> <p>Compares the intensity of sunlight at different locations on Earth during different seasons of the year.</p> <p>Analyzes models to determine where high and low tides occur based on the position of the Moon.</p> <p>Describes the role that gravity plays in orbital motions.</p> <p>Orders the planets, our solar system, the Milky Way galaxy, and the universe by their relative sizes.</p> <p>Analyzes a model showing several layers of rock and draws conclusions about the relative ages of the fossils found in the rock layers.</p> <p>Uses rock layers and fossil evidence to describe how the geology of a particular area has changed over time, such as from a sea floor to a forest.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for why people see solar and lunar eclipses on Earth.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for why people on Earth observe the phases of the Moon.</p> <p>Analyzes a graph to describe how changes in the duration and intensity of sunlight during a year determines the seasons. Supports conclusions with evidence from the graph.</p> <p>Completes models showing where high and low tides occur and explains why there are high and low tides in these locations.</p> <p>Compares and draws conclusions about the force of gravity on planets, moons, asteroids, comets, etc. in our solar system.</p> <p>Analyzes a model showing several layers of rock containing a fault to draw a conclusion about the relative age of the fault.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for how rock layers and geologic structures, such as canyons, volcanoes, mountains, and beaches, are formed through weathering, erosion, heat, pressure, and/or deposition.</p>

Earth and Space Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
<p>ESS2. Earth's Systems</p>	<p>Uses a model to show that geologic structures, such as volcanoes and mountain ranges, are formed where plates are pushed together.</p> <p>Recognizes that surface structures continue to change over time due to geologic processes, such as weathering, erosion, glaciation, and the movement of Earth's plates.</p> <p>Completes a model showing the primary steps of the water cycle.</p> <p>Analyzes weather data and draws simple conclusions about the precipitation and temperature of an area.</p> <p>Recognizes that temperatures near the ocean are more stable than temperatures of inland locations.</p>	<p>Uses a model to describe the role of convection currents in the movement of Earth's plates and identifies where convection currents occur.</p> <p>Describes how geologic processes form and shape geologic structures, such as mid-ocean ridges, mountains, and volcanoes, and cause geologic events, including earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions.</p> <p>Analyzes maps and other evidence to draw conclusions about the movement of Earth's plates.</p> <p>Describes the role of solar energy and gravity in the water cycle.</p> <p>Describes the weather conditions that typically occur when cool and warm air masses collide.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for how the movement of Earth's plates causes various geologic events, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.</p> <p>Uses data to explain the relative time scales different geologic structures form over.</p> <p>Supports a claim about the movement of Earth's plates using several pieces of evidence, such as the shapes of continents and the locations of specific fossils and types of rock.</p> <p>Describes evidence that glaciers were once present in an area.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for how each stage of the water cycle is dependent upon energy from the Sun and/or the Earth's gravity.</p> <p>Describes how air masses move and how the movement of air masses affects the weather in an area.</p>
<p>ESS3. Earth and Human Activity</p>	<p>Analyzes a basic map to draw general conclusions about the distribution of minerals or fossil fuels on Earth.</p> <p>Identifies one way that humans can mitigate the impact of increases in human population on natural resources and the environment.</p> <p>Analyzes a simple graph or data table to draw conclusions about how climate change is affecting an area.</p>	<p>Provides a partial explanation for why some resources, such as fossil fuels, water, and mineral/ores, are unevenly distributed on Earth.</p> <p>Describes various ways that humans can mitigate the overuse of Earth's resources, such as using renewable energy sources, recycling, using public transportation, etc.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation that human activities, such as fossil fuel combustion, agriculture, and deforestation, have played a role in rising global temperatures.</p>	<p>Explains why natural resources are unevenly distributed on Earth.</p> <p>Analyzes data, including graphs and maps, to draw conclusions about how humans use natural resources and identifies some ways human can mitigate the overuse of these resources.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation using evidence that human activities, such as fossil fuel combustion, agriculture, and deforestation, have played a role in rising global temperatures over the past century.</p> <p>Describes several ways humans can mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>

Grade 8 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

Life Science	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes	<p>Recognizes that animal, plant, and bacterial cells have some shared characteristics and some different characteristics.</p> <p>Recognizes some parts of a cell and the function of some cell parts.</p> <p>Describes two body systems and how they work together.</p> <p>Identifies some behaviors and structures of plants and animals that enables them to survive and successfully reproduce.</p> <p>Identifies a characteristic that is inherited and a characteristic that is mostly a result of the environment.</p> <p>Recognizes that all organisms need an energy source and nutrients to survive.</p>	<p>Uses the characteristics of cells to categorize an organism as an animal, plant, or bacteria.</p> <p>Given a diagram of a cell, identifies the cell parts and describes most functions of the cell parts.</p> <p>Generally, describes how different body systems work together.</p> <p>Provides evidence for how some organisms are able to survive and reproduce more than other organisms.</p> <p>Analyzes information about an organism to determine which characteristics are inherited and which characteristics are mostly a result of the environment.</p> <p>Describes how carbohydrates, proteins, and fats are broken down to support cell growth and to release energy (cellular respiration).</p>	<p>Compares animal, plant, and bacterial cells and identifies both similarities and differences between them.</p> <p>Consistently describes the functions of cell parts.</p> <p>Describes how the interactions between body systems can be affected by a condition or disease based on the functions of the body systems.</p> <p>Explains how various structures and behaviors can provide survival and reproductive advantages to plants and animals.</p> <p>Uses evidence to explain why some characteristics are inherited and other characteristics are a result of both inheritance and the environment.</p> <p>Using a model, explains how food molecules are broken down and rearranged to provide nutrients for cell growth and energy for cellular processes.</p>

Life Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics	<p>Interprets graphs to determine whether the size of a population increased, decreased, or stayed the same.</p> <p>Identifies one ecological relationship (competitive, predator-prey, parasitic, or mutually beneficial) when given a description of the interaction of two organisms.</p> <p>Recognizes that the biodiversity of a population is positively correlated with its size.</p> <p>Identifies how an ecosystem and how an organism living in the ecosystem can be helped by a human action.</p>	<p>Analyzes population data, including graphs, to describe changes in the size a particular population over time.</p> <p>Identifies several ecological relationships when given the interactions of organisms in an environment (including analyzing a food web).</p> <p>Completes models to show the cycling of matter through photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and decomposition.</p> <p>Uses a model of an ecosystem to describe how a disruption to the ecosystem can have an effect on an organism in the ecosystem.</p> <p>Describes multiple ways how the biodiversity of a population can be increased.</p> <p>Describes several ways an ecosystem and the organisms living in the ecosystem can be helped by human actions.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for the reasons why populations grow versus decline over time.</p> <p>Analyzes a complex food web and describes the ecological roles of the organisms. Consistently describes the roles of producers, primary, secondary, tertiary consumers, and decomposers in a model.</p> <p>Develops a model to show the cycling of matter and energy through an ecosystem, including the role of photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and decomposition.</p> <p>Uses a model of an ecosystem to construct an explanation with evidence for how a natural or manmade disruption to the environment can affect multiple populations in the ecosystem.</p> <p>Evaluates competing designs for protecting an ecosystem and its inhabitants from threats such as climate change, habitat loss, pollution, or overharvesting of resources.</p>
LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits	<p>Uses a model to show that chromosomes are made up of genetic information.</p> <p>Identifies one benefit of sexual reproduction or one benefit of asexual reproduction.</p> <p>Recognizes that offspring from sexual reproduction inherit genes and characteristics from two parents.</p> <p>Analyzes a simple Punnett square to determine the expected percentage of offspring with a certain trait.</p>	<p>Completes a model to show that chromosomes hold genes and genes hold the instructions for proteins.</p> <p>Describes mutations as changes to genes. Identifies examples of mutations that are harmful, beneficial, or neutral to changes in traits of an organism.</p> <p>Describes some of the benefits and drawbacks of sexual versus asexual reproduction.</p> <p>Completes a Punnett square to determine the expected percentage of offspring that will inherit certain genotypes (allele pairs) and phenotypes (traits).</p>	<p>Develops a model to show that chromosomes are made up of genes and that genes contain the instructions for proteins, which determine the inherited characteristics of an organism.</p> <p>Describes how a mutation may be harmful, neutral, or beneficial to an organism depending on its interactions with the environment.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for why some organisms benefit from asexual reproduction while other organisms benefit from sexual reproduction.</p> <p>Develops a model to show that sexual reproduction results in sets of chromosomes (found in the nucleus) from each parent, and therefore an allele for each gene is inherited from each parent.</p>

Life Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	<p>Analyzes fossil evidence to draw conclusions about different organisms living at different times.</p> <p>Compares a structure in a living organism to a structure from a fossilized organism and draws a conclusion about their similarity.</p> <p>Recognizes that individuals with certain inherited characteristics have a higher probability of surviving than individuals without those characteristics.</p> <p>Identifies one difference between natural selection and artificial selection.</p>	<p>Analyzes fossil evidence to describe how the environment in an area has changed over geologic time.</p> <p>Explains how living and fossilized organisms can have similar body structures with similar or different functions.</p> <p>Identifies examples of natural selection and generally explains why they are examples of natural selection.</p> <p>Compares examples of natural selection and artificial selection.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation using fossil evidence for how similar structures can be used to infer whether two types of organism share a recent common ancestor.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for how a trait can become more common in a population over time due to natural selection.</p> <p>Describes advantages and disadvantages of both natural and artificial selection.</p>

Grade 8 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

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Physical Science	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
PS1. Matter and Its Interactions	<p>Identifies that all living and non-living things are made-up of atoms.</p> <p>Identifies that mixtures can be separated by physical means.</p> <p>Using data, identifies one piece of evidence that a chemical reaction or a physical change occurred.</p> <p>Interprets a particle model to determine the three states of matter shown in the model.</p> <p>Recognizes that a new substance is formed when a chemical reaction occurs.</p> <p>Given data, determines if energy is being absorbed or released in a chemical reaction.</p> <p>Calculates the density of an object given its mass and volume.</p>	<p>Completes a model showing how atoms form compounds and molecules.</p> <p>Describes how mixtures are made up of pure substances that can be separated by physical means.</p> <p>Using data, identifies multiple pieces of evidence that a chemical reaction or a physical change occurred.</p> <p>Partially describes how particle motion, spatial arrangement, or temperature of a substance change when thermal energy is added to or removed from the substance.</p> <p>Completes a bar graph to show the conservation of mass in a chemical reaction or a physical change.</p> <p>Given a chemical reaction, identifies if it is exothermic and endothermic based on whether or not thermal energy is released or absorbed.</p> <p>Describes, compares, and calculates the densities of different materials.</p>	<p>Analyzes a chemical formula to determine the number of each type of atom that makes up a given molecule.</p> <p>Analyzes data to determine which substances are pure substances.</p> <p>Explains the difference between a chemical reaction and a physical change and provides multiple pieces of evidence to support the explanation.</p> <p>Consistently describes how particle motion, spatial arrangement, and temperature of a substance change when thermal energy is added to or removed from the substance.</p> <p>Relates temperature to a measure of average kinetic energy and recognizes that temperature/kinetic energy does not change as a substance is changing state.</p> <p>Supports a claim that matter is not created or destroyed during a chemical reaction or a physical change, using evidence from an investigation.</p> <p>Describes the difference between an endothermic and exothermic reaction. Supports the description with evidence from a chemical reaction.</p> <p>Determines whether an object would float or sink in water due its density and supports the answer with evidence.</p>

Physical Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions	<p>Given a model, recognizes that an object that applies a force to another object will also experience a force acting on it.</p> <p>Recognizes that the speed of an object will change if the mass of the object changes and the forces acting on the object are constant.</p> <p>Recognizes that the speed of an object will change if the forces acting on the object are not balanced.</p> <p>Recognizes that two positive charges or two negative charges will repel each other, and a negative charge and a positive charge will attract each other.</p> <p>Completes a model, to show that gravitational forces are always attractive.</p> <p>Using a model, describes how an object can exert forces on another object, even when the objects are not in contact with each other.</p>	<p>Analyzes models to draw conclusions about the forces acting on objects during a collision.</p> <p>Completes a graph to show how the change in speed of an object, with a constant net force acting on it, depends on the mass of the object.</p> <p>Completes a model to show whether the speed of an object will increase, decrease, or remain constant based on the forces acting on an object.</p> <p>Completes a model to show how the distance between two electric charges or the magnitudes of the charges affects the strength of the forces between the charges.</p> <p>Describes how the mass of objects affects the gravitational forces on the objects.</p> <p>Completes a model of the electric, magnetic, or gravitational field around an object.</p>	<p>Develops models to show the forces acting on objects before, during, and after a collision.</p> <p>Develops a model to show how the change in speed of an object depends on the mass of the object and the net force acting on the object.</p> <p>Uses data to construct an explanation about how the distance between two electric charges or the magnitudes of the charges affects the strength of the force between the charges.</p> <p>Develops a model showing the relative magnitudes of gravitational forces acting between two objects.</p> <p>Completes a model of the electric, magnetic, or gravitational field between two objects.</p>
PS3. Energy	<p>Interprets a graph to show how the kinetic energy of an object relates to the speed of the object, or vice versa.</p> <p>Interprets data to describe what will happen to an object's kinetic energy as its potential energy decreases.</p> <p>Identifies the flow of thermal energy from hot to cold.</p> <p>Identifies an example of conduction, radiation, or convection.</p> <p>Describes how it takes more time to heat an object that has more mass than an object (of the same material) with less mass.</p> <p>Using a graph, determines how an increase in average kinetic energy of an object results in an increase in temperature.</p>	<p>Completes a graph to show how the kinetic energy of an object relates to the speed of the object, or vice versa.</p> <p>Analyzes information, including graphics and data, and generally describes how the kinetic and potential energies of an object compare at different heights, when energy is conserved.</p> <p>Analyzes the conversions of different types of potential energy into kinetic energy and vice versa to draw conclusions about energy conservation.</p> <p>Generally, describes how thermal energy is transferred through conduction, radiation, and convection and generally describes ways this heat flow can be increased or decreased in a given situation.</p>	<p>Uses a graph to show how the kinetic energy of an object relates to the speed of the object, or vice versa, and explains the reasoning.</p> <p>Analyzes information, including graphics and data, and consistently describes how the kinetic and potential energies of an object compare at different heights, and is able to explain that energy is conserved.</p> <p>Explains how different types of potential energies are converted to kinetic energy and vice versa.</p> <p>Explains how thermal energy is transferred through conduction, radiation, and convection and fully describes ways the rate of this heat flow can be increased or decreased in a given situation.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation to show the relationships among the amount of energy transferred between</p>

Physical Science	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
		<p>Analyzes data and draws conclusions to describe how certain materials will better conduct thermal energy compared to others.</p> <p>Describes how average kinetic energy is related to temperature.</p>	<p>objects, how well materials of the objects retain or radiate heat, the masses of the objects, and the changes in the average kinetic energies of the object's materials.</p>
<p>PS4. Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer</p>	<p>Completes a model of a wave to show its frequency, amplitude, or wavelength.</p> <p>Given a model, sometimes identifies where waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through a material.</p> <p>Identifies when a signal is either encoded or transmitted.</p>	<p>Compares two waves' frequencies, amplitudes, and wavelengths, and sometimes describes how these characteristics will affect the waves.</p> <p>Completes a model showing reflection, absorption, and transmission of a wave, including how waves are refracted.</p> <p>Describes the processes of encoding and transmitting.</p>	<p>Compares two or more waves' frequencies, amplitudes, and wavelengths, and consistently describes how these characteristics will affect the pattern of a wave.</p> <p>Develops a model to explain how waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted in a given situation, including how waves are refracted.</p>

Grade 8 MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors Science and Technology/Engineering

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Technology/ Engineering	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
ETS1. Engineering Design	<p>Identifies criteria and constraints of a design problem. Identifies one solution to a simple problem.</p> <p>Uses a simple design matrix to determine the best solution.</p> <p>Sometimes solves simple scale problems, given the actual measurement or the scaled measurement.</p> <p>Analyzes a design feature of a prototype and identifies the importance of a prototype.</p>	<p>Describes some criteria and constraints of a design problem. Describes a solution to a problem and explains how it could be successful based on evidence.</p> <p>Uses a design matrix to draw conclusions about possible solutions.</p> <p>Solves scale problems, given the actual measurement or the scaled measurement.</p> <p>Generally, describes appropriate design features of a prototype and describes the importance of a prototype.</p>	<p>Describes several criteria and constraints of a design problem. Describes several solutions to a problem and explains their limitations and benefits based on evidence.</p> <p>Uses a design matrix to draw conclusions about possible solutions and explains the reasoning.</p> <p>Explains when a scale drawing should be used and determines an appropriate scale for a given situation.</p> <p>Consistently describes appropriate design features of prototypes for a given situation.</p>
ETS2. Materials, Tools, and Manufacturing	<p>Recognizes basic properties of common materials (such as wood, metal, and plastic).</p> <p>Given data, chooses a material for a design problem given its characteristics.</p> <p>Given a set of tools, chooses the best tool for a given task.</p> <p>Identifies and describes some of the manufacturing processes (forming, separating, conditioning, assembling, finishing, quality control, and safety).</p> <p>Identifies an advantage or a disadvantage of using a computer or a human for a given task.</p>	<p>Describes properties (such as flexibility, ductility, hardness, thermal conductivity, electrical conductivity, and melting point) of common materials and generally uses the materials for appropriate design solutions.</p> <p>Describes the best tools to use for a given situation.</p> <p>Generally, describes a few steps of the manufacturing process in a given situation.</p> <p>Provides an advantage and a disadvantage of using a computer or a human for a given task.</p>	<p>Evaluates different materials and determines the best materials to use for a given design problem. Explains the reasoning, giving both drawbacks and benefits of the materials.</p> <p>Consistently describes several steps of the manufacturing process in a given situation.</p> <p>Provides multiple advantages and/or disadvantages of using a computer or a human for a given task.</p>

Technology/ Engineering	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
<p align="center">ETS3. Technological Systems</p>	<p>Identifies and describes the functions of some components of a communication system (source, encoder, transmitter, receiver, decoder, and storage).</p> <p>Given a diagram, identifies and describes some of the functions of some components of a vehicle (structural, propulsion, guidance, suspension, and control subsystems).</p> <p>Given a diagram, identifies and describes some of the parts of a structural system (foundation, decking, wall, and roofing).</p> <p>Given a diagram, identifies a force (tension, torsion, compression, and shear) acting on a structure.</p> <p>Given a transportation, structural, or communication system, identifies some of the components of an engineering system: inputs, processes, outputs, and feedback.</p>	<p>Completes a model and describes the functions of several components of a communication system.</p> <p>Completes a model and describes most of the functions of some components of a vehicle.</p> <p>Identifies and describes most of the parts of a given structural system.</p> <p>Identifies and describes two forces acting on a shown structure. Identifies live and dead loads for a given scenario.</p> <p>Given a transportation, structural, or communication system, identifies and describes several components of an engineering system.</p>	<p>Develops a model and describes the functions of the components of a communication system.</p> <p>Develops a model and describes most of the functions of the components of a transportation system.</p> <p>Consistently identifies and describes the parts of a given structural system.</p> <p>Consistently identifies and describes forces acting on a shown structure. Describes live and dead loads for a given scenario.</p> <p>Given a transportation, structural, or communication system, consistently identifies and describes components of an engineering system.</p>

High School Biology MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

High School Biology

MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

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HS Biology	Partially Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Meeting Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:	Exceeding Expectations On MCAS, a student at this level:
Understanding and Application of Disciplinary Core Ideas	<p>Demonstrates a partial understanding of some scientific concepts and processes by identifying and sometimes describing or providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Uses some basic scientific terms in common scientific examples.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a solid understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by mostly describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Mostly applies appropriate scientific terms in a variety of applications, including common science examples and some novel situations.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by consistently describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Consistently applies scientific terms in appropriate contexts in both common science examples and many novel situations.</p>
Understanding and Application of Scientific and Engineering Practices	<p>Identifies a testable, scientific question for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes a simple, commonly used model.</p> <p>Uses simple graphs or data to draw general conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Identifies evidence to support a claim.</p> <p>Describes a benefit or drawback of simple design features given a familiar device or prototype.</p>	<p>Develops some testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes or uses a model and describes some strengths and weaknesses of the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides some evidence to support a claim and constructs basic explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a familiar device or prototype and describes a benefit or drawback of the design.</p>	<p>Consistently develops testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Creates a model, consistently describes the strengths and weaknesses of the model, and provides information for how to improve the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a novel or complex scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides several pieces of evidence to support a claim and constructs thorough explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a novel device or prototype and constructs an explanation for how the design features meet criteria for success or are limited by constraints.</p>

HS Biology	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
<p>LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes</p>	<p>Identifies some of the most common elements that make up organic macromolecules.</p> <p>Describes a basic function of a type of organic macromolecule (carbohydrate, lipid, nucleic acid, or protein).</p> <p>Identifies the source of energy and the major reactants and products of photosynthesis by their names or chemical formulas.</p> <p>Describes ATP as a source of usable energy and that it is produced in mitochondria.</p> <p>Describes some major events of the cell cycle (including interphase, mitosis, cytokinesis) and their purposes.</p> <p>Identifies complementary base pairs for a DNA sequence and for an mRNA sequence.</p> <p>Identifies that a gene codes for a protein and describes one function of a protein.</p> <p>Completes a basic model to generally describe how a body system works. Describes one way the body maintains homeostasis.</p>	<p>Analyzes models to classify most organic macromolecules and identifies all common elements for a given example.</p> <p>Analyzes models of monomers to determine some types of organic macromolecules and describes some basic functions of these macromolecules.</p> <p>Constructs or completes models of photosynthesis using the names or chemical formulas of reactants and products and describes the importance of photosynthesis.</p> <p>Constructs or completes models of cellular respiration using the names or chemical formulas of reactants and products and describes the importance of cellular respiration.</p> <p>Completes a model to describe how major events of the cell cycle, including DNA replication, allow a cell to grow and survive.</p> <p>Describes the structure of DNA and how its structure affects its function.</p> <p>Describes how genes code for proteins through transcription and translation and describes several functions of proteins.</p> <p>Recognizes that all cells within the same organism have the same genes.</p> <p>Describes several functions of proteins.</p> <p>Describes the functions of structures and organs of body systems.</p> <p>Interprets models to draw a conclusion about the way the human body maintains homeostasis.</p>	<p>Analyzes models of monomers to consistently identify their organic macromolecules and describes the functions of these molecules.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about the important uses of the products of photosynthesis for both plants and animals.</p> <p>Analyzes data to determine the relative amount of ATP that is generated by organisms under different conditions.</p> <p>Explains how ATP is used in a variety of ways by both animal and plant cells.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about how the sequence of events of the cell cycle allows organisms to grow and survive.</p> <p>Describes specific functions of several proteins, including enzymes, hormones, and structural proteins.</p> <p>Calculates the percentage of one type of nitrogenous base for a DNA molecule using complementary base pairs.</p> <p>Analyzes and creates models of DNA, RNA, and amino acid chains to describe the products of replication, transcription, or translation.</p> <p>Analyzes data to determine when a gene is expressed and to determine whether replication, transcription, or translation occurs.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation about why different types of cells express different genes, which results in different cell functions.</p> <p>Analyzes data to draw conclusions about how body systems work together to support life functions.</p> <p>Constructs explanations about how body systems work to restore homeostasis when conditions change.</p>

HS Biology	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
<p>LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics</p>	<p>Describes birth and immigration as factors that increase population size, and death and emigration as factors that decrease population size.</p> <p>Identifies some basic ecological relationships (such as predation, competition, mutualism), when given an example.</p> <p>Interprets a basic food web to identify simple ecological relationships.</p> <p>Analyzes a food web to identify the trophic level of a species.</p> <p>Recognizes that less energy is available at higher trophic levels in an energy pyramid.</p> <p>Identifies some carbon cycle processes and recognizes that carbon is released or stored in the environment depending on the process.</p> <p>Recognizes that the biodiversity of an ecosystem is affected by the number of species in the ecosystem.</p> <p>Describes one-way invasive species can impact other species in an ecosystem.</p> <p>Identifies human impacts (climate change, pollution, habitat destruction) on an ecosystem and describes some ways to address them.</p>	<p>Describes how various biotic and abiotic factors affect a population's birth rate, death rate, immigration rate, or emigration rate.</p> <p>Describes several ecological relationships and determines evidence that supports claims about ecological relationships.</p> <p>Analyzes a food web to describe changes to populations resulting from an increase or decrease of another population.</p> <p>Uses an energy pyramid to calculate the amount of energy that is expected to be stored in different trophic levels.</p> <p>Completes a carbon cycle model showing how carbon is moved through both biotic and abiotic parts of an ecosystem.</p> <p>Describes how the biodiversity of an ecosystem is affected by the number of individuals within a species (genetic diversity is lower in smaller populations).</p> <p>Describes some characteristics of invasive species and how these characteristics can affect other species in an ecosystem.</p> <p>Analyzes data to determine the human impact on an ecosystem and describes several ways to reduce the impact of human activity on the ecosystem.</p>	<p>Analyzes multiple factors (such as species interactions, human activities, and natural phenomena) to solve problems relating to population size and carrying capacity of an ecosystem.</p> <p>Analyzes complex food webs and constructs explanations about various interactions in the food web as the sizes of populations change.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for why only about 10% of the energy stored in one trophic level will be available to the next higher trophic level and how having less energy available reduces the number of organisms that can be supported at higher trophic levels.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for how several carbon cycle processes interact within an ecosystem and how changes in the environment can disrupt the cycle.</p> <p>Explains how biodiversity of an ecosystem can be impacted by both the number of species in that ecosystem as well as the number of individuals within a species.</p> <p>Constructs thorough explanations for how and why invasive species can affect an ecosystem.</p> <p>Evaluates several solutions for either reducing the impact of human activity on an ecosystem or restoring an ecosystem and explains the benefits and drawbacks of these solutions.</p>
<p>LS3. Heredity</p>	<p>Identifies the general purpose of meiosis, that gametes come from two parents, and that egg and sperm combine to produce offspring.</p>	<p>Analyzes and completes a basic model of meiosis.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation of why meiosis is important for maintaining the number of chromosomes from one generation to the next.</p>

HS Biology	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
	<p>Recognizes that inherited traits are encoded in an organism's DNA and RNA.</p> <p>Completes a simple model to show how a mutation in a DNA sequence can change an mRNA codon.</p> <p>Identifies that only mutations in a gamete can be passed from parent to offspring and that mutations can be a source of genetic diversity.</p> <p>Identifies simple inheritance patterns for a given trait.</p> <p>Identifies genotypes for a certain trait, completes a Punnett square for a given cross, and calculates the expected percentage of offspring for a given genotype or phenotype.</p> <p>Identifies the genotype of an individual in a basic pedigree when the inheritance pattern is given.</p>	<p>Describes the product of fertilization as a zygote (a diploid cell) containing genetic information from both parents.</p> <p>Describes how mutations in DNA can lead to the production of different amino acids and therefore different proteins.</p> <p>Interprets a model of crossing over and concludes that genetic variability increases as a result of crossing over.</p> <p>Interprets information to consistently determine inheritance patterns.</p> <p>Constructs and completes Punnett squares and calculates the expected percentages of genotypes and phenotypes of crosses for a given scenario.</p> <p>Analyzes a pedigree to determine the inheritance pattern of a trait.</p> <p>Describes how polygenic traits are influenced by the expression of multiple genes.</p> <p>Describes how environmental factors can influence the expression of some inherited traits.</p>	<p>Explains how crossing over, independent assortment, and random pairing of gametes contribute to the genetic diversity of offspring.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation for how a mutation in a DNA code may or may not result in a phenotypic (trait) change.</p> <p>Analyzes Punnett squares to determine the expected genotype and phenotype percentages for sex-linked traits.</p> <p>Analyzes a complex pedigree to determine genotypes and phenotypes of individuals and to make predictions about future offspring of parents in the pedigree.</p> <p>Uses data to explain the likelihood that a certain trait will be more influenced by genetics or by the environment.</p>
LS4. Evolution	<p>Identifies some types of evidence (genomes, amino acids, fossils, homologous structures) that support the process of evolution.</p> <p>Recognizes that individuals with certain traits survive and produce more offspring than individuals without those traits.</p>	<p>Explains how evolution can be supported by evidence that demonstrates common ancestry.</p> <p>Completes a cladogram to show the evolutionary relationships among several species.</p> <p>Describes how an advantageous heritable trait allows individuals in a population to survive and reproduce more than individuals without that trait.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation based on a model, such as a cladogram, to support a claim about the evolutionary relatedness of species and explains why comparing genomes provides the best evidence that two species are closely related.</p> <p>Constructs a thorough explanation about evolution, including conditions (heritable variation, differential fitness) that need to be met for evolution to occur and how there will be changes in the frequency of alleles (or traits) within a population over time.</p>

HS Biology	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
	<p>Describes that, in general, two organisms from the same species are able to mate and produce offspring.</p> <p>Recognizes that isolated populations generally have a smaller gene pool than larger populations.</p> <p>Recognizes that viruses are unable to reproduce outside of a host cell and that bacteria reproduce through asexual reproduction.</p>	<p>Describes how to determine whether two organisms are closely related and/or from the same species.</p> <p>Describes the role of genetic drift or gene flow in the speciation or extinction of a population.</p> <p>Describes how bacteria and viruses adapt quickly to changing environments due to their high mutation rate and the ability to quickly reproduce.</p>	<p>Analyzes a situation to determine evidence of selection pressures that could influence the evolution of a population.</p> <p>Constructs explanations based on data for how genetic drift, gene flow, mutations, and natural selection can play a role in the speciation or extinction of a population.</p> <p>Analyzes the results of an investigation to determine conditions that will support the growth of bacteria or viruses.</p>

High School Introductory Physics MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on-track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

High School Introductory Physics MCAS Next-Generation Achievement-Level Descriptors

Student results on the MCAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on MCAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

HS Physics	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
Understanding and Application of Disciplinary Core Ideas	<p>Demonstrates a partial understanding of some scientific concepts and processes by identifying and sometimes describing or providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Uses some basic scientific terms in common scientific examples.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a solid understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by mostly describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Mostly applies appropriate scientific terms in a variety of applications, including common science examples and some novel situations.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a comprehensive, in-depth understanding of many scientific concepts and processes by consistently describing, explaining, and providing evidence for these concepts and processes.</p> <p>Consistently applies scientific terms in appropriate contexts in both common science examples and many novel situations.</p>
Understanding and Application of Scientific and Engineering Practices	<p>Identifies a testable, scientific question for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes a simple, commonly used model.</p> <p>Uses simple graphs or data to draw general conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Identifies evidence to support a claim.</p> <p>Describes a benefit or drawback of simple design features given a familiar device or prototype.</p>	<p>Develops some testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Completes or uses a model and describes some strengths and weaknesses of the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a familiar scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides some evidence to support a claim and constructs basic explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a familiar device or prototype and describes a benefit or drawback of the design.</p>	<p>Consistently develops testable, scientific questions for an investigation.</p> <p>Creates a model, consistently describes the strengths and weaknesses of the model, and provides information for how to improve the model.</p> <p>Analyzes multiple sources of data, including graphs and tables, to draw conclusions about a novel or complex scientific investigation or phenomena.</p> <p>Provides several pieces of evidence to support a claim and constructs thorough explanations for scientific phenomena or results from an investigation.</p> <p>Analyzes design features of a novel device or prototype and constructs an explanation for how the design features meet criteria for success or are limited by constraints.</p>

HS Physics	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
PS1. Matter and Its Interactions	Interprets a model to determine that energy is released during the processes of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay.	Analyzes a model to determine whether fission, fusion, or a radioactive decay (alpha, beta, or gamma) process occurred.	Analyzes incomplete models of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay and describes the results of each in terms of energy and products.
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions	<p>Solves simple problems involving average speed, velocity, and acceleration.</p> <p>Interprets a motion graph to determine how the graphed variable changes over time.</p> <p>Interprets a scenario to determine the relative magnitude of a force.</p> <p>Determines a net force using Newton's 2nd law or by interpreting a free-body force diagram with two colinear forces.</p> <p>Solves simple momentum and change in momentum (impulse) problems.</p> <p>Interprets a model to determine whether two charges will attract or repel.</p> <p>Describes how the magnitude of charges or the distance between charges affects electrostatic forces.</p> <p>Describes how the masses of objects or the distance between objects affect gravitational forces.</p> <p>Solves simple problems using Ohm's Law when given two of the three variables (current, voltage, or resistance).</p> <p>Identifies a schematic symbol for a simple circuit element and generally explains its role.</p>	<p>Solves problems involving acceleration, velocity, and change in position for a given time.</p> <p>Analyzes motion graphs and their slopes to solve for and compare speeds, velocities, accelerations, and net forces.</p> <p>Analyzes free-body force diagrams to determine which diagram represents a given system.</p> <p>Solves for an unknown force by interpreting a model with two or more colinear forces when also given the net force.</p> <p>Solves for the total momentum or change in momentum of a system.</p> <p>Interprets a model to determine the direction an object will move after a collision.</p> <p>Compares the magnitude and the direction of the forces that two objects exert on each other when they collide.</p> <p>Compares models of pairs of masses or charges to order the magnitude of the gravitational or electrostatic forces.</p> <p>Completes a model to represent electrostatic forces between charges.</p> <p>Interprets a model to support a claim that an electric current produces a magnetic field or a claim that a changing magnetic field produces an electric current.</p>	<p>Solves a motion problem by analyzing a model and then applying information from the model to solve for velocity or acceleration.</p> <p>Explains how changing a system would affect an object's velocity or acceleration.</p> <p>Solves force problems by analyzing motion graphs and then models the forces involved using free-body force diagrams.</p> <p>Analyzes a motion graph and then applies information from the graph to solve a momentum problem.</p> <p>Describes that the total momentum of a system stays the same during a collision and solves for velocity or mass by applying conservation of momentum.</p> <p>Explains how forces involved in a collision can be minimized.</p> <p>Applies proportional reasoning to solve for how changing the distance between a pair of masses or a pair of charges affects the forces between the pair.</p> <p>Applies proportional reasoning when multiple variables are changed to determine the forces between a pair of masses or charges.</p>

HS Physics	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
		<p>Describes how a change to a circuit affects current, voltage, or resistance.</p> <p>Interprets a series circuit diagram with several circuit elements and solves for current, resistance, or voltage.</p> <p>Interprets simple series or parallel circuit diagrams and explains which circuit elements will have the same current through them and which elements will have the same voltage drop across them.</p>	<p>Describes the effect of a gravitational or electrostatic force between two objects by solving for the force using either Newton's law of gravitation or Coulomb's law.</p> <p>Explains that the interplay of electric and magnetic forces is the basis for electric motors and generators.</p> <p>Analyzes series and parallel circuit diagrams with multiple circuit elements to compare and solve for current, voltage, and resistance.</p>
PS3. Energy	<p>Solves for gravitational potential energy when given the height and mass of an object.</p> <p>Describes an example of energy being converted from one form to another.</p> <p>Interprets a model to determine a location where gravitational potential energy or kinetic energy is either the greatest or the least.</p> <p>Solves simple problems for work when given the force and distance.</p> <p>Solves efficiency problems when given energy in and energy out.</p> <p>Interprets a simple graph to determine when thermal equilibrium is reached.</p> <p>Recognizes that heat flows from a substance with a higher temperature to a substance with a lower temperature.</p> <p>Recognizes the relationship between average molecular motion and temperature.</p>	<p>Analyzes a model of a system and then uses information from the model to calculate kinetic energy or gravitational potential energy.</p> <p>Describes that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but energy may enter or leave a system.</p> <p>Compares an object's kinetic energy at two positions or an object's potential energy at two positions when mechanical energy is conserved.</p> <p>Analyzes data to solve mechanical energy problems.</p> <p>Interprets a model of a device and explains how to increase the efficiency of the device.</p> <p>Explains how the temperatures in two substances change as the substances reach thermal equilibrium.</p> <p>Describes how changing the mass of a substance affects the energy required to cause a temperature change.</p> <p>Analyzes electric field diagrams and determines the direction and relative strength of the electric field around two charges.</p>	<p>Constructs an explanation for how kinetic energy and potential energy change over time in a given model.</p> <p>Explains how the mechanical energy of a system can change, due to work being done on the system by a force, while maintaining the law of conservation of energy.</p> <p>Solves complex work problems, including first solving for initial and final mechanical energy.</p> <p>Analyzes a graph to compare the energy efficiency of multiple devices.</p> <p>Explains how the average molecular motion of molecules in two substances changes as the substances reach thermal equilibrium, and how energy is conserved in a system as thermal equilibrium is reached.</p> <p>Analyzes a model and solves problems for the amount of heat transferred in a system, the specific heat of a substance, or the initial or final temperature of a substance.</p>

HS Physics	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On MCAS, a student at this level:</i>
	Describes the relative amount of force between two magnets as they are moved closer together or farther apart.	Explains how the energy stored in a field between two magnets or two charges changes when they are moved different distances apart.	Interprets a model to describe the motion of a freely moving charged particle and the energy stored in the field between two charged particles.
PS4. Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer	<p>Solves simple wave problems for velocity/speed, wavelength, or frequency when given two of these three variables.</p> <p>Identifies the wavelength of a wave on a model.</p> <p>Solves simple wave problems involving period and frequency when given one of the variables.</p> <p>Identifies differences between mechanical waves and electromagnetic waves.</p> <p>Recognizes the relationships between frequency and pitch of a sound wave as well as between frequency and energy of a light wave.</p> <p>Identifies evidence of light behaving like a wave or light behaving like a particle.</p> <p>Interprets simple models of the photoelectric effect.</p> <p>Interprets simple models of common wave behaviors, including resonance, diffraction, refraction, and interference.</p>	<p>Analyzes data to determine additional information needed to solve wave problems.</p> <p>Describes how the particles in a medium move when a longitudinal or transverse wave travels through the medium.</p> <p>Describes several properties of mechanical waves and electromagnetic waves.</p> <p>Compares multiple electromagnetic waves in terms of frequency, energy, and wavelength.</p> <p>Analyzes a model and explains the causes of resonance and refraction.</p> <p>Analyzes a model of a technology or device and describes how wave behaviors or the photoelectric effect are used in the technology or device.</p>	<p>Analyzes models of waves and uses information from the models to solve problems.</p> <p>Interprets a graph with relative speeds of mechanical waves to determine the states of matter of various media.</p> <p>Constructs an explanation with evidence about how light can behave like a wave and how it can behave like a particle.</p> <p>Explains the relationship between photon energy and the electrons ejected by the photoelectric effect.</p> <p>Analyzes a model of constructive and destructive interference and determines the amplitude of a wave pulse that results from the interference.</p> <p>Analyzes how a technology or device uses waves and describes how changing the properties of the waves would influence the device.</p>