WELCOME

English Learners Parent Advisory Council (EL-PAC)

January 22, 2020
Understanding State Assessments and the 2020 Census
Agenda

- Welcome
- What you need to know about the 2020 Census
- ACCESS
- Why this test is important
- What the test looks like - practice test
- MCAS
- Preparing for online testing - How can parents help?
- Next EL-PAC meeting and topic
This Census will count every person living in the U.S.

It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution - You **must** fill out the census.
Any information you give to the Census Bureau is protected.
The answers you give can **not** be used against you.

This is the law!
It is your choice: You can respond by mail, phone, online or with a representative.
The online Census is available in 59 languages.
This year, the federal census is very important because it is the once-a-decade population count, called the Decennial Census.

These are the numbers we will use for the next 10 years!
An accurate representation of the population determines how much Federal money will go to:

- Schools
- Title 1
- Special Education
- Lunch Programs
- # of Representatives in Congress

- Hospitals
- Health Care
- Senior Centers
- Building Roads/Repairs
- Businesses
- Jobs
You can fill out the Census in March and April.

In June, Census officials will begin going door-to-door for those who have not submitted their Census form.
Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS)

January 6 - February 7, 2020
Why is this test important?

The results give information about:

- The state’s English Learners Program
- How our district compares to other districts in the state
- Each school’s scores and how they compare
- Teachers, parents and students are able to see how they are doing
ACCESS has 4 parts and students get a separate score for each language domain.

1. LISTENING
2. SPEAKING
3. READING
4. WRITING
These scores tell us:

- The student’s strengths
- Areas that need improvement
- What the teachers can do to support each English Learner
Throughout the school year, technology and classroom teachers are teaching students how to take tests online.

Online testing has become the “new normal” for students.
In June, you will receive an Individual Student Report from the state explaining the meaning of your child’s scores. (It will be translated into your primary language)
Preparing Students for ACCESS Assessment

https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/access/preparing-students
Would you like to try the ACCESS test?

Log in with the generic username and password to try practice questions in each domain:

Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.
Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)  
March 2020 - May 2020 Window

- English Language Arts - Grades 3-8 and 10
- Mathematics - Grades 3-8 and 10
- Science-Technology-Engineering - Grades 5 & 8
Preparing Students for MCAS Online Testing

MCAS Assessment Website
http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/

Released Test Questions & Practice Tests
http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testitems.html

Online Student Tutorial and Practice Tests
http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/student/
In the Fall 2020 you will receive a Parent Guardian Report from the state explaining the meaning of your child’s scores. (It will be translated into your primary language)
What can parents do?

- Encourage your child to read.
- Limit daily screen time and promote physical activity.
- Set expectations that your child will do his/her best when testing.
- Make sure he/she gets a good night’s sleep and breakfast.
- Share with your child the importance of education and the excitement of learning new things.
Our next EL-PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 1, 2020

6:00 - 7:00

Multiculturalism in our Schools
QUESTIONS?