

jmbteixeira

From: jmbteixeira <jmbteixeira14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 5:11 AM
To: 'Jodi Fortuna'
Cc: Allyson Hay (ahay@hudson.k12.ma.us); Brian Davis; Elizxabeth Hallsworth; George Luoto; Glenn Maston; Jennifer O'Brien; Michelle Dufour (mdufour@hudson.k12.ma.us)
Subject: Quinn School MCAS reminder
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Fortuna,

I bring your attention to the Quinn Middle School announcement sent out today that falsely indicates all students must take MCAS. It states, emphasis in yellow added, "**ELA MCAS** testing for grade five is March 30 and 31. Testing for grade six is April 7 & 8. Testing for seventh grade will be held April 4 & 5, 2016. **Please have your children get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast for each day of the test. It is most important that they are in school and on time for each test. Every student must take all the tests required.** If they are absent or late on the day of testing, they will need to make up each test missed."

This is not true and needs to be corrected. MCAS causes a great deal of stress and anxiety for many students and while taking the test may be preferred by HPS and DESE, it certainly is not required.

Commissioner Chester has stated in his January 29th update: "In some instances, a student may refuse to take a test, either of his/her own volition or at the direction of a parent. In these cases, we ask principals to encourage parents to rethink their refusal and remind them that the assessments are a valuable gauge of their student's and school's progress. We ask principals and test proctors to handle refusals with sensitivity. Students should not be pressured to take the test, nor should they be punished for not taking the test. They may sit quietly and read in the testing room, but if they are distracting others in the class who are taking the test, it would be appropriate to have them move to another location in the school with adult supervision. There is no requirement to provide formal or informal instruction to these students during the test period; having them do homework or read a book is sufficient, provided that the material is separate from the content being assessed in the testing room. For students who refuse to take MCAS paper tests, no special reporting is needed."

In addition, please see <http://www.citizensforpublicschools.org/the-facts-on-opting-out-of-mcas-or-parcc/>.

I look forward to hearing from you by this Friday on a corrective action plan to have the information corrected at Quinn for ALL parents so that they are aware that MCAS is NOT required at this level.

Regards,

HPSG: Jorge Teixeira
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