



Dear 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Families and Guardians,

I am writing to share with you some news and information about your student and the English and Math MCAS this year. As you have heard, students in the class of 2022 (current 11<sup>th</sup> graders) do not have to take the MCAS as a graduation requirement. However, taking and getting a certain score on the MCAS could make your student eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship and we want them to have that opportunity. Thus, Excel will still be offering current 11<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to take their English and Math MCAS this spring.

The John and Abigail Adams scholarship can be used by many students at all public, Massachusetts 2-year and 4-year colleges including the UMASS universities. The scholarship is small but can be helpful! It can vary from \$970 to \$1800. It covers the part of college costs called tuition. Even though it's small, past Excel seniors have found this one scholarship helpful when trying to pay for college. Every year, around 65% of Excel students are found eligible for this scholarship, so we want you to have that same opportunity!

To be eligible for the scholarship students must:

- Score in the Advanced category on one of three MCAS tests : English, Math or Biology
- Score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the remaining TWO MCAS tests.
- Have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.

Because scholarship eligibility requires a specific combination of scores on all three MCAS tests: if your student received a “needs improvement” or “failing” on any prior MCAS they would not be eligible for the scholarship, in which case we don't recommend testing. But don't worry! There are so many ways your student can qualify for financial aid for college. This is just one small scholarship.

Taking this test is OPTIONAL, so how should you and your student decide if they should take the test?

- In advisory on Monday (5/10), your student's advisor will share with them their Biology MCAS score along with a specific recommendation from your student's College and Career Counselor about whether they should take the MCAS to qualify for the scholarship based on their bio score. This will be shared via text so you can ask your student to see it when they get home.
- If your student received a Proficient or Advanced in your Biology MCAS you will be recommended to take the test and then you'll have time to think about it, ask questions, and tell us your decision via an advisory survey next week!

Please feel free to reach out to your student's CCC if you have any questions.

- Ms. Keenan- 617-800-9224
- Ms. Pray- 857-285-2073
- Mrs. Repp is on maternity leave so please reach out to Mrs. Goldworm- 617-329-1235

Sincerely,

Laura Goldworm

Dean of College Access and Post-Secondary Success

