

Massachusetts Advocacy Center

MAC is a private, non-profit child advocacy organization that has applied a multi-issue, multi-strategic approach to improve the living conditions and life opportunities for the children of the Commonwealth, with a special focus on low-income, racially diverse, limited English speaking, and disabled children. MAC has concentrated on public education, child health and welfare, and children's legal rights, with particular attention to special education and reform of the public schools in Boston.

Boston Parent Organizing Network

BPON is a citywide initiative established to organize parents and communities as advocates for the improvement of the Boston Public Schools. BPON's objective is to build a network of organizations creating a central connection to exchange ideas, information, and strategies to empower parents and build partnerships to improve the public schools in Boston.

Citywide Parent Council

Citywide Parents Council's mission is to hold the Boston Public School accountable for providing quality education to all students. CPC's main objectives are: 1) empowerment of parents, 2) advocating curriculum improvement, 3) enforcing the mandate for, and strengthening, School Parent Councils in all schools.

Voices for Children

Voices for Children is a collaborative of parents, students, school, church, and community based organizations that come together to facilitate and reinforce implementation of the new teachers contract, to inform the public, and to hold BPS-BTU accountable for agreements in the contract in order to improve the public education of children in Boston

For further information, contact:

*John Mudd, Mass Advocacy Center
(617) 357-8431 x221 johnmudd@qwest.net*

*Michele Brooks, BPON
(617) 373-2595, m.brooks@neu.edu*

*Hattie McKinnis, CPC
(617) 635-6612, hmckinnis@boston.k12.ma.us*

Boston Parent Organizing Network
C/O Institute for Responsive Education
21 Lake Hall
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115

Massachusetts Advocacy Center
100 Boylston St., Suite 200
Boston, MA 02116

**Does your child
need academic help?**

MCAS

Student's Rights

BPS MCAS Supports

Individual Student Success Plans

**For students in the Class of 2003 who
have not yet passed the MCAS**

Be sure the child's plan includes:

**An accurate assessment of your child's
academic skill needs:**

- 1) Describes Strengths & Weaknesses
- 2) Grade Level Assessment
- 3) Results of MCAS Literacy and Math

Plans to improve skills. Examples:

- 1) Additional Specialized Course Work
- 2) Extra MCAS literacy and math classes
- 3) Tutoring, In-school & After-school
- 4) Additional Reading Programs
- 5) Transition Programs & Summer School
- 6) Princeton Review Courses (High School)

**All plans should be in place by
March 2002**

MCAS Support

**The Boston Public Schools
Must Provide Help for
Students Who Have Not Yet
Passed the MCAS**

**Individual Student
Success Plans
Are Required by the State
Are guaranteed by BPS
for the Class of 2003**

Parents of students who have not yet passed:

- Must receive notification from the school about the ISSP (Individual Student Success Plans)
- Should meet with teachers to review their child's ISSP (required for teachers)
- Should receive periodic ISSP progress reports.

***If your child has not yet passed the MCAS and
you have not seen your child's ISSP, call your
school immediately.***

Federal and State Laws Require

**Individual Education Plans
For Students with Disabilities**

Individual plans must include learning objectives covering the curriculum for MCAS.

Individual Education Plan

A student's IEP (or 504 plan) must describe specific services and programs your child needs to learn the subject areas covered by the MCAS.

Federal law requires accommodations
where necessary.

Check your child's IEP (page 7) or 504 Plan to ensure your child is receiving the accommodations (or alternate testing) he/she needs.

Review MCAS scores at the Team meeting and discuss whether it is necessary to add or change MCAS **accommodations** provided to your child or if your child should participate in an **alternative assessment**.

Some examples of **accommodations** are:

- Multiple testing sessions
- Large print
- Use of a reader
- Student cued to remain on task

The alternate assessment:

The alternate assessment is a "portfolio" assessment, a body of evidence consisting of work samples, photo, video, audio, instructional data (primary evidence) that is collected over many months.