

MCAS Report 2009

Medford High School
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Over the eleven years that MCAS has been administered, Medford High School has made steady progress on the state assessment tests. Overall, the percentage of students scoring in the highest two proficiency levels has increased significantly, and the percentage of students failing the test has decreased dramatically.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 10

More Students at Higher Levels

Since MCAS was first administered in 1998, a far greater percentage of MHS students have scored within the top two proficiency levels on the English Language Arts (ELA) test.

- In 1998 only 2% of MHS students scored at the Advanced level on the ELA test, but in 2009 29% performed at the Advanced level, 7% more than the previous year.
- In 1998 only 30% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient levels on the ELA test, but in 2009 81% of MHS students scored at the highest two levels, 2% more than in 2008.

Fewer Students at the Failing Level

Over the twelve-year history of MCAS, far fewer MHS students overall have failed the ELA test.

- The number of students who failed the ELA test dropped from 29% in 1998 to only 6% in 2009.

Comparison of MHS and the State

- At MHS - and across the state - 81% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the 2009 ELA test.
- While 6% of MHS students failed the 2009 ELA test, 4% of students across the state failed the test.

MATHEMATICS – Grade 10

More Students at Higher Levels

Since MCAS was first administered in 1998, a far greater percentage of MHS students have scored within the top two proficiency levels.

- In 1998 only 1% of MHS students scored at the Advanced level on the Mathematics test, but in 2009 41% performed at the Advanced performance level, 5% more than last year.

- In 1998 only 16% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the Mathematics test, but in 2009 74% of MHS students scored at the highest two levels, 3% more than the previous year.

Fewer Students at the Failing Level

Over the twelve-year history of MCAS, far fewer MHS students overall have failed the Mathematics test.

- The number of failing students on the Mathematics test dropped from 59% in 1998 to 11% in 2009.
- With 270 MHS test-takers, 21 students scored at the Failing performance level on the Mathematics test in 2009, but 13 students came within four points of 240, the threshold for the Needs Improvement performance level.

Comparison of MHS and the State

- While 74% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the 2009 Mathematics test, 75% of students statewide also scored at these two highest levels.
- While 11% of MHS students failed the 2009 Mathematics test, 8% of students statewide failed the test.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – Grade 9

2009 was the second year that school, district and state results for the MCAS Science and Technology Test were released. The following scores pertain only to Grade 9 students, essentially all of whom were taking the MCAS high school Science test for the first time.

Grade 9 Introductory Physics

- In 2008 only 48% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the Grade 9 Introductory Physics test, but in 2009 58% of MHS students scored at the highest two levels.
- At MHS – and across the state - 58% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the 2009 Grade 9 Introductory Physics test.
- While 10% of MHS students failed the 2009 Grade 9 Introductory Physics test, 15% of students statewide also failed the test.

Grade 9 Biology

- In 2008 only 61% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the Grade 9 Biology test, but in 2009 93% of MHS students scored at the highest two levels.
- At MHS 93% of MHS students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level on the 2009 Grade 9 Biology test, compared to 66% of ninth grade test-takers statewide.
- Only 1% of MHS students failed the 2009 Grade 9 Biology test, but 12% of students statewide also failed the test.