

## **MassCPAs Statement on Question 2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement**

MassCPAs supports a NO vote on Question 2 on the Massachusetts ballot this November. The ballot question proposes replacing the standardized statewide MCAS tests as a high school graduation requirement.

Repealing this requirement would force every public school in the Commonwealth to create its own standardized graduation requirements. This would lead to a patchwork of standards across the state, resulting in disparities in educational quality and standards. If educational standards are lowered in high school, students may graduate without developing the analytical, mathematical and problem-solving skills critical for success in fields like accounting. This could result in a pipeline of future accountants who are less prepared for the rigorous demands of the profession.

Additionally, creating new requirements, rather than the statewide MCAS tests, places an undue burden on local school districts, many of which may lack the resources and expertise to develop and implement effective assessments.

Currently, the MCAS creates a consistent benchmark that every public school can strive to meet, ensuring that all students, regardless of geographic location or local resources, are held to the same academic expectations. By maintaining the MCAS, schools have a clear goal to work towards, promoting accountability and providing educators with valuable data to identify areas for improvement. The MCAS also serves as an equalizer by offering an objective measure of student achievement. The exams help mitigate disparities in grading practices or varying school curriculums, giving every student a fair chance to demonstrate their knowledge and compete on a level playing field.

As educators, employers, and community leaders, we are unwavering in our commitment to maintaining rigorous academic standards that are vital to the success of our students and the future of our industry. Voting NO on Question 2 is essential to preserving these standards and ensuring that students are fully prepared for careers that demand specialized knowledge, like accounting. We strongly urge Massachusetts voters to reject this ballot measure for our statewide education system and uphold a culture of excellence and accountability.