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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Principals of Grade 8 Students  
**From:** Michol Stapel, Associate Commissioner for Student Assessment  
**Date:** July 28, 2023  
**Subject:** Release of Spring 2023 Grade 8 Civics Pilot Test Items

This memo is for schools that participated in the voluntary 2023 MCAS Grade 8 Civics end-of-course (EOC) pilot test, which consisted of 17 selected-response questions worth a total of 20 points. Approximately 6,000 students across the state participated in the pilot. State- and school-level results as well as the pilot items are now available.

A data file named "MCAS2023\_Civics\_Item\_Analysis\_XXXXXXX.csv" (where the x's refer to the school code) has been placed in the MCAS 2023 Data folder in DropBox Central, located in the [Department's Security Portal](#). This file contains the percentage of possible points for each item, by school and the state. It also includes the content standard, civics topic, reporting category, and item description for each item.

The EOC covers the breadth of the civics standards in the [2018 History and Social Science Framework](#). Students analyzed text sources and graphics to answer many of the questions on the pilot. The reporting categories for the Grade 8 Civics assessment are as follows:

Code	Civics Content Reporting Category
FG	Foundations and development of the U.S. political system & government (Topics 1 & 2)
GS	Institutions and structure of U.S. government & Massachusetts state and local governments (Topics 3 & 6)
RR	Rights and responsibilities, the U.S. Constitution, and news & media literacy (Topics 4, 5, & 7)

All the items from the pilot were released and are available at [mcas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/civics](https://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/civics). The released items are in the same order as the pilot data provided.