



The High School Assessment Graduation Requirement

2011 – 2012



What are the HSAs?

- **Graduation Requirement**
- **These tests measure students' content knowledge in three subject areas:**
 - Algebra/Data Analysis**
 - Biology**
 - English**
- **Students who entered Grade 9 in fall 2005 must take 3 HSAs to meet this graduation requirement in one of 3 ways.**



What are the HSAs like?

- **Approximately 2 ½ Hours Long**
- **Types of Questions**
 - **Selected Response (SR)**
 - **Student-Produced Response (SPR)**



When Can Students Take the HSAs?



2011-2012

- **October**
- **January**
- **April (seniors only)**
- **May**
- **Summer
(July/August)**



When are scores available?

- **Maryland State Department of Education currently sends HSA scores to MCPS approximately 4-6 weeks after students take the tests.**
- **Preliminary results are sent to schools within a week of receipt.**
- **Official results are released to schools about 2 weeks later.**
- **Parents receive home reports approximately 3 weeks after MCPS receives the scores from MSDE.**



What if a child is absent during testing?

- Scheduled make-up days are offered within 2 weeks of the original test date.
- Parents can contact the school counselor to obtain the make-up test dates.
- Parents can also obtain the HSA testing schedule at hsaexam.org.



Students with Disabilities, 504 Plans & English Language Learners

- **Students are entitled to testing accommodations as outlined in IEPs, 504 plans, English Language Learner (ELL) plans, and Re-designated ELL plans.**
- **Check the MSDE HSA Web site for the latest information – hsaexam.org**
- **If you have specific questions about a student's participation or accommodations on state tests, consult his or her IEP team, ELL team, or school counselor.**



Modified HSA

- **What are Modified Academic Achievement Standards?**
 - **A more appropriate measure of content standards for some students with disabilities**
 - **Eligibility is determined based on criteria established at an IEP team meeting.**

Mod-HSA Design

- **Online Assessment**
- **Selected response format**
- **Simplified sentence structure, vocabulary, numbers, & graphics**
- **3 answer choices instead of 4**
- **Elimination of nonessential information**
- **No EXCEPT or NOT questions**

Modified Sample Math Test Item

Publicly Released Test Item

Look at the equation below.

$$125 \times N = 375$$

What value of N makes this equation correct?

1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. 5

Modified Test Item

Look at the equation below.

$$125 \times N = 375$$

~~What value of N makes this equation correct?~~

What is the value of N?

1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. ~~5~~ (distracter)



3 Ways to Meet the HSA Graduation Requirement*

All students who entered Grade 9 in fall 2005 or later must meet the requirement.

1. Pass All 3 HSA Tests

2. Combined Score of 1208 or higher on the 3 tests or 1602 on 4 tests (available only to students who have a Government HSA score)

3. Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

***Students can work on more than one way, or path, at the same time.**



Path 1: Earn Passing Score on Each Test

HSA Content Area	Passing Score
Algebra/Data Analysis	412
Biology	400
English	396
Total Passing Scores	1208



Substitute Scores

- **Advanced Placement (AP) & International Baccalaureate (IB) Tests**
 - Earn a score of 3 or higher on designated Advanced Placement tests
 - Earn a score of 5 or higher on designated International Baccalaureate tests

Path 2: Combined Score

Earn combined score of 1208 or higher

HSA Content Area	Passing Score	Combined Score Sample
Algebra/Data Analysis	412	407
Biology	400	400
English	396	402
Combined Total		1209

Path 2: Combined Score – Option with Government Test Score

HSA Content Area	Passing Score	Combined Score Sample
Algebra/Data Analysis	412	407
Biology	400	398
English	396	400
Government	394	400
Combined Total		1605



Path 3: Bridge Plan

To access this path, students must meet the following 6 criteria:

- Fail an HSA once and retake the exam a second time
- Pass the HSA-related course
- Score below 1208 on all 3 HSAs (or below 1602 if they have a Government HSA score)
- Participate in an intervention or academic support
- Attend 80% of the time for previous semester (MCPS guideline)
- Earn 12.5 credits by end of semester 1 of junior year (MCPS guideline)





Path 3: Bridge Plan

All projects are developed by MSDE.

- **A student is assigned project(s).**
- **The Local Review Panel scores project(s) and sends the results to the schools and parents.**
- **Students revise projects that do not meet standard with the help of their project monitors and scorers' comments.**

Bridge Project Assignment Chart

Based on Test Scores

Number of Projects Assigned	Algebra (412 Pass)	Biology (400 Pass)	English (396 Pass)
1 Project	390-411	378-399	374-395
2 Projects	368-389	356-377	352-373
3 Projects	346-367	334-355	330-351
4 Projects	324-345	312-333	308-329
5 Projects	302-323	290-311	286-307
6 Projects	280-301	268-289	264-285
7 Projects	Below 280	Below 268	Below 264



Bridge Project Assignment



- **Students work with a project monitor at the school to select projects.**
- **Projects are judged for course content knowledge and not a specific point value.**
- **Students earn credit or meet standard for successful project completion.**
- **No partial credit will be given for any project.**



Local Review Panels

- **Set up to evaluate projects**
- **Include content and special education and/or ESOL teachers as needed**
- **Include a central office representative**



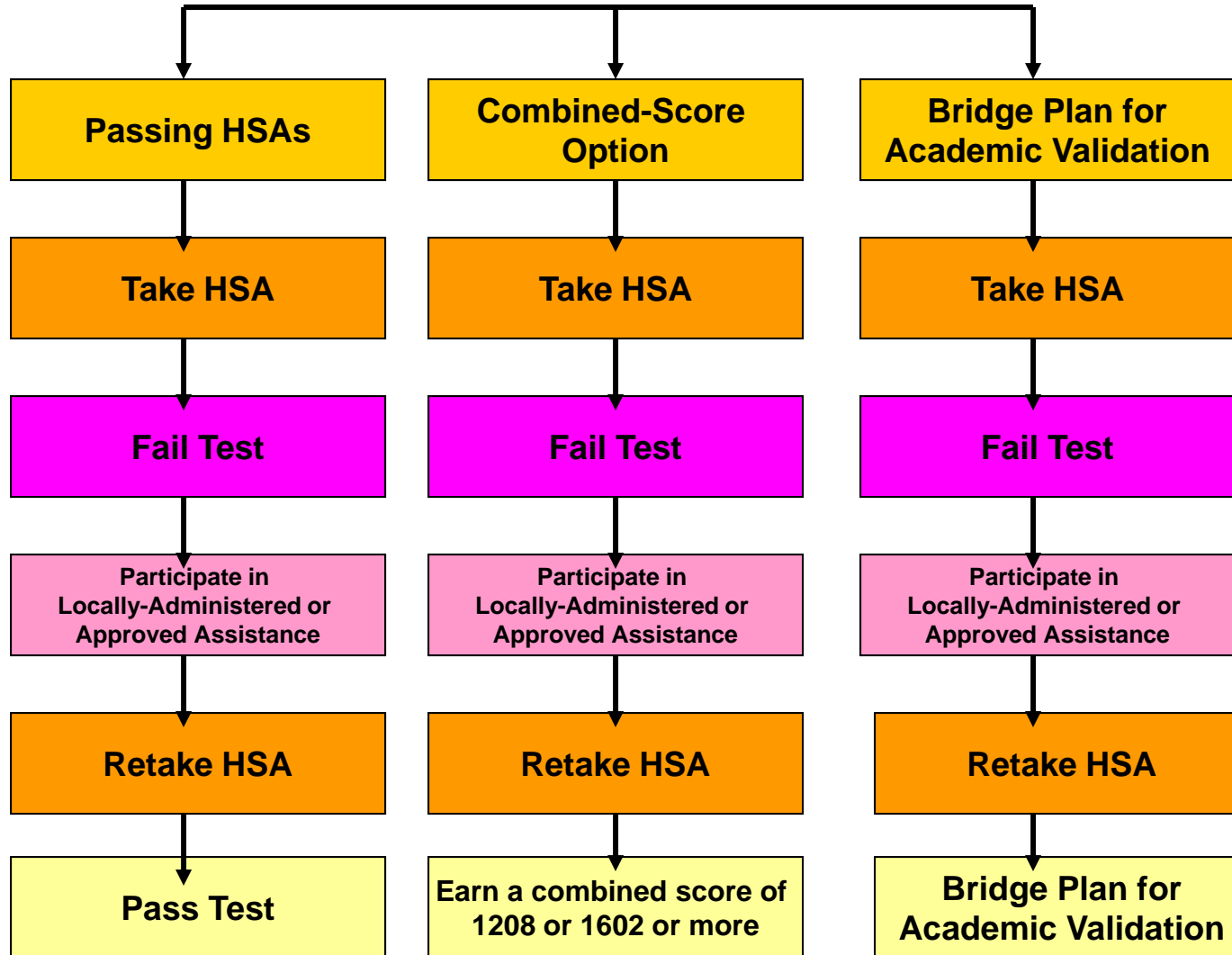
Local Review Panels

- **Projects will be reviewed in accordance with guidelines and procedures developed by MSDE.**
 - **Scoring tools from MSDE provide consistency without bias**
- **Project scoring results are sent to parents and schools after each review panel session.**
- **Students must submit projects by due dates to assure there is enough time to evaluate them prior to graduation.**

MCPS Superintendent Project Decisions

If a project package is...	
APPROVED	The student will have met the requirement for the specific HSA test.
REJECTED/ ASKED TO RESUBMIT	The student will receive feedback, complete the necessary revisions with the guidance of the project monitor, and resubmit the project.
REJECTED/ APPEAL	The student did not meet the requirement for the specific HSA test. The student can appeal, in writing within 10 days, to the State Superintendent.

Working on the 3 Paths





Students Must Take HSAs When They Earn Credit in an HSA-aligned Course through...

- **MCPS**
- **Maryland public schools**
- **Online/virtual courses while enrolled in MCPS**
- **MCPS/private summer school while enrolled in MCPS**



Students Are NOT Required to Take HSAs When MCPS Accepts Credits They Earned in an HSA-aligned Course through...

- **Out-of-state public school**
- **Private school**
- **Foreign country**
- **Home schooling**



Limited Waiver Process

- **The Maryland State Board of Education has adopted a limited HSA waiver regulation.**
- **To be eligible for a waiver of the HSA graduation requirement, the student**
 - **Has or will meet all other graduation requirements.**
 - **Has or will take all required HSAs before the graduation date.**
 - **Participated in one or more interventions or remediation opportunities, including the Bridge Plan.**

Limited Waiver Process

- **Once the eligibility criteria are met, students can be considered for a waiver for the following reasons:**
 - **A decision by the local school system regarding the provision of required interventions.**
 - **A special circumstance or combination of circumstances, such as death in the immediate family, serious or prolonged illness, etc.**
 - **Student moved to the U.S. in the junior or senior year, is literate in his or her own language, but is not literate in English.**
 - **Student moved to MD in senior year, has passed all HSA courses, but failed the related HSA, and has had no adequate opportunity for intervention.**



What supports are available to students?

- Schools must offer students an intervention opportunity at their school before retaking an HSA
- Students participating in the Bridge Plan are receiving an appropriate intervention as they work to meet the HSA requirement by completing required projects.
- Students may retest as many times as needed to earn a higher or a passing score.

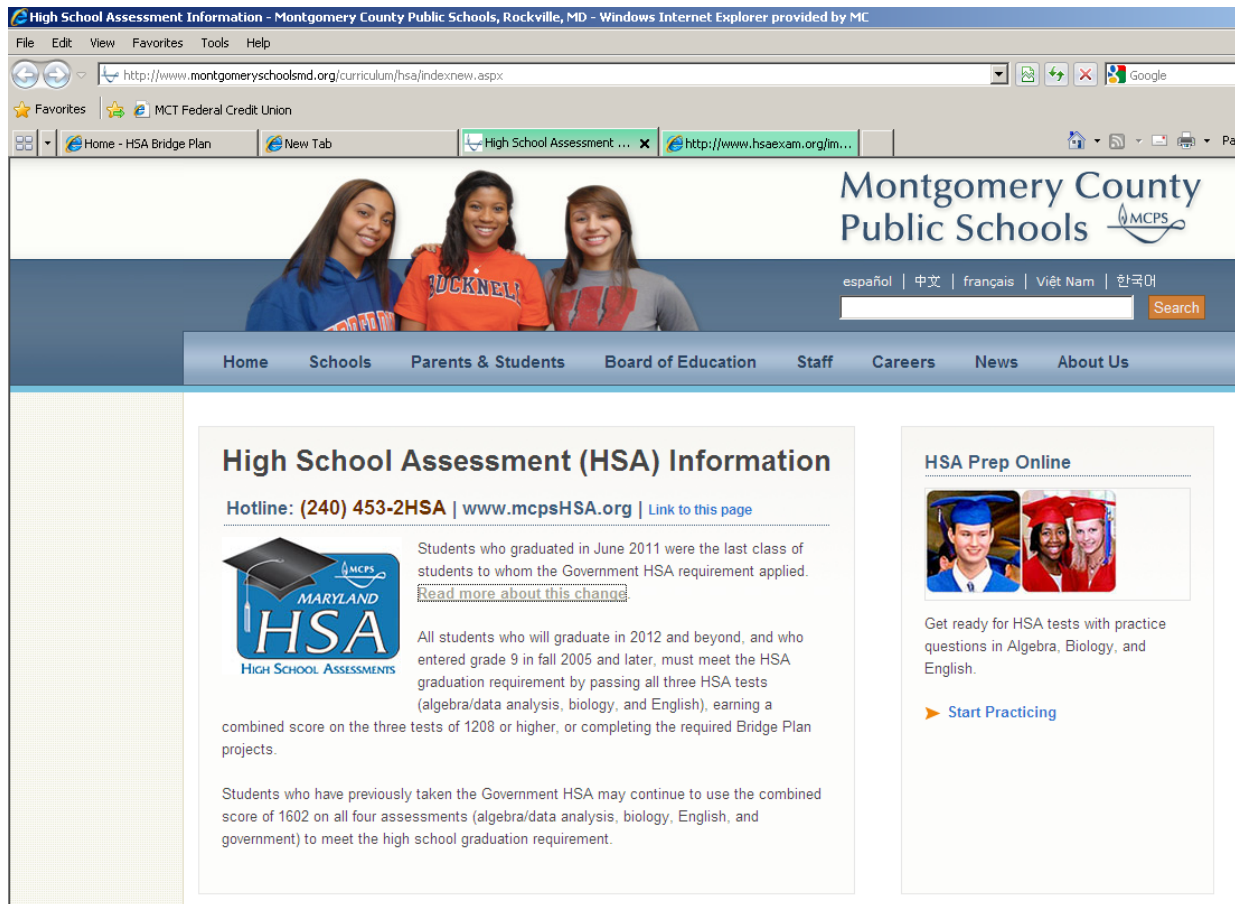


What supports are available to students?

- Schools offer many interventions during and after the school day, including HSA/Bridge Workshop classes during the day and after school. Check with your school to see what interventions are offered.
- HSA Prep Online (www.mcpshsa.org) can be used for practice in Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, and English.

HSA Prep Online


www.mcpshsa.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Montgomery County Public Schools website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsa/indexnew.aspx>. The website header features the MCPS logo and navigation links for Home, Schools, Parents & Students, Board of Education, Staff, Careers, News, and About Us. A search bar is also present. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "High School Assessment (HSA) Information" and includes a hotline number (240) 453-2HSA, a link to www.mcpsHSA.org, and a link to "Read more about this change". Below this is the HSA logo, which features a graduation cap and the text "MARYLAND HSA HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS". The text explains that students who graduated in June 2011 were the last class to whom the Government HSA requirement applied, and that all students who will graduate in 2012 and beyond must meet the HSA graduation requirement by passing all three HSA tests (algebra/data analysis, biology, and English), earning a combined score on the three tests of 1208 or higher, or completing the required Bridge Plan projects. It also states that students who have previously taken the Government HSA may continue to use the combined score of 1602 on all four assessments (algebra/data analysis, biology, English, and government) to meet the high school graduation requirement. The right column is titled "HSA Prep Online" and features a photo of three students in graduation caps. Below the photo, it says "Get ready for HSA tests with practice questions in Algebra, Biology, and English." and includes a link to "Start Practicing".

High School Assessment (HSA) Information

Hotline: (240) 453-2HSA | www.mcpsHSA.org | [Link to this page](#)




Students who graduated in June 2011 were the last class of students to whom the Government HSA requirement applied. [Read more about this change.](#)

All students who will graduate in 2012 and beyond, and who entered grade 9 in fall 2005 and later, must meet the HSA graduation requirement by passing all three HSA tests (algebra/data analysis, biology, and English), earning a combined score on the three tests of 1208 or higher, or completing the required Bridge Plan projects.

Students who have previously taken the Government HSA may continue to use the combined score of 1602 on all four assessments (algebra/data analysis, biology, English, and government) to meet the high school graduation requirement.

HSA Prep Online



Get ready for HSA tests with practice questions in Algebra, Biology, and English.

➤ [Start Practicing](#)

HSA Prep Online Sample Question

Montgomery County Public Schools: HSA Prep Online

Question 1 of 10

[Take Another Test](#) | [Logout](#)

The United States Congress is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The matrices below show the number of members in Congress from 1990 through 2002.

	SENATE				HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES				
	1990	1994	1998	2002	1990	1994	1998	2002	
Democrats	55	57	45	50	Democrats	260	258	206	211
Republicans	45	43	55	49	Republicans	175	176	228	222
Independents	0	0	0	1	Independents	0	1	1	2

What was the total number of Republicans in Congress in 1994?

F
219

G
301

H
315

J
535

Submit Answer

HSA Prep Online

Sample Response Page

Montgomery County Public Schools: HSA Prep Online

Question 5 of 10

[How am I doing?](#) | [Take Another Test](#) | [Logout](#)

Ariella bought 10 pairs of identical runners' socks and a \$13.50 pair of insoles. The total cost for the items was less than \$40.

Which of these inequalities best describes the cost (c) of each pair of socks?

ANSWER HINT: There are a few ways you could solve this problem.

One way is to write and solve an inequality.

Another way is to pick a price for the socks and see if it makes sense. For example, let's say the socks cost \$7. She would spend \$70 for 10 pairs and \$13.50 for the insoles. Her total bill would be \$83.50. That is not less than \$40, so we know \$7 is too much and we can eliminate some of the answer choices.

If your answer is incorrect, please try again:

A
 $c < \$2.65$

B
 $c > \$2.65$

Your Incorrect Answer

C
 $c < \$5.35$

D
 $c > \$5.35$

You added the price of the insoles to the \$40. You do not add the price of one of the items to the total cost to find the price of the other item.

Submit 2nd Try

HSA Prep Online

Sample Summary Page

HSA Prep Online - Montgomery County Public Schools

How did I do?

[Print Report](#) | [Take Another Test](#) | [Logout](#)

[View Your Practice History](#)

Congratulations on completing an HSA Prep Test Session.

Print out this report and share it with your teacher.
Keep practicing by clicking on "Take Another Test" above.

Name: Joe Student Email: joestudent@gmail.com Test Date: 3/7/2008 10:34 AM

Question#1 (2000 / msde / alg)
How many yards from the kicker did the football land?

Question#2 (2000 / msde / alg)
What was the total number of Republicans in Congress in 1994?

Question#3 (2000 / msde / alg)
Which of these graphs represents this relationship?

Question#4 (2000 / msde / alg)
Which of these expressions represents the perimeter of the rectangle?

Question#5 (2000 / msde / alg)
After how many seconds is the velocity 0 meters per

Key

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	- Correct
<input type="checkbox"/>	- Incorrect

Additional Information on HSAs and the Bridge Plan

MCPS

www.mcpshsa.org

HSA Hotline: (240) 453-2HSA

MSDE

www.hsaexam.org