



Albert Einstein High School

New Required Quarterly Assessments for 2016-2017



Last fall, the Board of Education eliminated two-hour semester final exams and replaced them with quarterly marking period assessments in high school courses which previously had a final exam, beginning this school year.

Required Quarterly Assessments (RQAs):

In place of a series of two-hour multiple choice/short answer exams in core courses at the very end of the semester, RQAs will be given quarterly in each course that currently has a districtwide exam. In certain courses, standardized RQAs will be given once each quarter and weighted 10% of each marking period grade. This will be calculated into the letter grade for the marking period. This only applies to courses that previously had a countywide final exam in English, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, and technology.

- These quarterly assessments will be administered, scored, and graded consistently by course across the school district, and student performance on these assessments will be monitored by teachers, schools, and central office, in order to ensure timely support.
- As in college, marking period assessments will be content-specific and vary in format, to include cumulative tests, projects, or other common tasks similar to what is already included in the curriculum. The assessments will measure cumulative content knowledge and skills that build over the course of the semester or school year.
- In these courses, a separate grading category will be visible online, for students and parents to view results of marking period assessments during the semester.
- RQAs will be given during county-determined windows to ensure that RQAs are distributed throughout the semester.

Courses with Required Quarterly Assessments (RQAs): *Includes all Honors or Pre-IB courses*

- English 9, 10, 11 & 12
- US History
- NSL Government
- Modern World History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Foundations of Technology
- Algebra I & II
- Geometry
- Pre-Calculus
- French 1, 2 & 3
- Spanish 1, 2 & 3
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1, 2 & 3
- ESOL 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Semester Grade Calculation

The separate final exam grade on the student report card will be removed going forward. Similar to current semester grade calculations for courses in which there is no final exam, the semester grade will be calculated using the letter grades from each marking period. There will not be a modified-schedule final exam week

- For all high school courses, the semester grade will be calculated by averaging the letter grade for each marking period, using a “quality point” assignment (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, E = 0).
- The new semester grade calculation for high school courses uses the same quality point calculation that is currently being used in middle school courses and in summer school.
- The MCPS grading calculation table will remain nearly the same, except in a few situations where the average replaces the practice of assigning grades based on a downward trend. An updated grading table follows.

Revised Grading Table

Letters indicate MP1 MP2 = Semester Grade

AA = A	BA = A	CA = B	DA = B	EA = C
AB = A*	BB = B	CB = B	DB = C	EB = C
AC = B	BC = B*	CC = C	DC = C	EC = D
AD = B*	BD = C	CD = C*	DD = D	ED = D
AE = C	BE = C*	CE = D	DE = E	EE = E

MP1—Grade for first marking period of the semester; MP2—Grade for second marking period of the semester. All calculations in the table above are the same as the current high school grading table, except where marked with *

Please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/assessment-strategy/> for more information.