



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARYLAND

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

September 2017



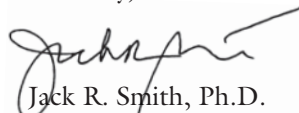
Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to ensuring that every student graduates from our schools well prepared for college, career, and life. The high school journey is an exciting one filled with wonderful opportunities to learn and explore and to become involved in extracurricular activities. During these four years, our teachers and administrators will work to provide our students with a world-class education that meets the rigorous requirements necessary to earn a high school diploma and to be college and career ready in the state of Maryland. Some of these requirements have changed in recent years, and so it is critically important that our families collaborate with their high school counselor to make sure students are on track for on-time graduation and postsecondary studies.

MCPS is providing this resource to clearly spell out the requirements that all families need to be aware of pertaining to course credits, state testing, and college and career readiness. The *College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013*, which was passed by the Maryland General Assembly, requires all students to be assessed in English and mathematics by the end of Grade 11 using one of several assessments. Students who do not achieve a certain score must take a transition course and retake an assessment in Grade 12. More details about the assessments and passing scores are included here for your review. In addition, depending on what year students enter Grade 9, the requirements for taking and passing state-mandated tests are different. Students and their families should consult with their counselor for assistance if they have questions about their specific circumstances.

I encourage our students to make the most of the exciting opportunities that await them in each of our high schools. The teachers, counselors, and administrators in every school stand ready to support students to be successful and well prepared to seize the opportunities life presents following graduation.

Sincerely,



Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

ON TRACK FOR
GRADUATION
**CLASS OF
2021**

FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2017–2018
**MCPS Graduation Requirements
at a Glance**

THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZES ONE DIPLOMA for all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment of four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland assessments. Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8 to meet the enrollment requirement. All other requirements are summarized in the table below. Please consult the online MCPS Course Bulletin at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coursebulletin or your school counselor for further information.

COURSE CREDITS			
English	4 credits		
Fine Arts	1 credit Selected course in art, dance, drama/theater, and music satisfies this requirement.		
Health Education	0.5 credit		
Mathematics	4 credits 1 full-year (A/B) algebra credit and 1 geometry credit required. Students who successfully complete a calculus course may be exempted from this 4-credit requirement. NEW STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER: Students graduating in 2018 and later must be enrolled in a math course in each year of high school. This may result in students earning more than 4 credits in math for graduation.		
Physical Education	1 credit		
Science	3 credits 1 biology credit and 1 physical science credit must be included.		
Social Studies	3 credits 1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit required.		
Technology Education	1 credit Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.		
Electives The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by one of the following three options:	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
	2 credits in a world language OR 2 credits in American Sign Language AND 2.5 credits in elective courses	2 credits in advanced technology education AND 2.5 credits in elective courses	4 credits in a state-approved Program of Study AND 0.5 credit in elective courses
STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)			
Student Service Learning (SSL)	75 service-learning hours		
MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT (MHSA) REQUIREMENTS^{1,2,3,4} HSA, PARCC, and MISA Assessments The MHSA requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).			
Algebra 1	Course credit earned in Algebra 1 AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Algebra 1 PARCC or Algebra 1 HSA prior to 2016–2017, OR Pass Algebra 1 PARCC 		
MISA Maryland Integrated Science Assessment	3 course credits earned in science, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take HS-MISA in 2018–2019 if student earns third science credit in 2018–2019, OR Pass HS-MISA after 2018–2019 if student earns third science credit after 2018–2019 		
English 10	Course credit earned in English 10 or ESOL 3 or higher, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L) 10 PARCC 		
Government	Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass Government HSA 		

¹ Substitute Test—Students earning qualifying scores on substitute tests (AP/IB) will meet the MHSA requirement in that content area.

² Transfer Credit—Students transferring from outside MD public schools may be eligible to meet some MHSA content-area requirements with Transfer Credit.

³ Combined test score options are available for the HSAs and for the PARCC assessments.

⁴ Bridge Plan—The Bridge Plan is an alternative means of meeting the MHSA graduation requirement. With the Bridge Plan, students demonstrate content mastery by completing projects when they have difficulty passing the traditional test.

College and Career Readiness

IN 2013, THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED the *College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act* (CCRCCA), aimed at ensuring that all students are prepared for credit-bearing coursework in college and for living wage careers. The Act includes the requirement that all students be assessed for college and career readiness in English and mathematics by the end of Grade 11, using one of several college and career readiness assessments. Students who do not meet the college and career ready standard in English or mathematics by the end of Grade 11 will be required to enroll in a transition course or other instructional opportunity during Grade 12, in preparation for reassessment. After completing the transition course or instructional opportunity, students must be reassessed by the end of Grade 12. School counselors and staff will work closely with students to determine the best assessment to take in Grade 11, as well as transition course options and reassessment during Grade 12, if necessary.

What are the assessments that determine college and career readiness in MCPS?

One of the following assessments may determine college and career readiness in CRITICAL READING/ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS	One of the following assessments may determine college and career readiness in MATHEMATICS
SAT: 480* or higher ACT: 21 or higher ACCUPLACER: Reading 79 or above Sentence Skills 90 or above Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition or AP Language and Literature: 3 or higher International Baccalaureate (IB) English: 4 or higher	SAT: 530* or higher ACT: 21 or higher ACCUPLACER: Elementary Algebra 62 or above College Level Math 45 or above Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB or BC, or AP Statistics: 3 or higher International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics: 4 or higher

*Revised in 2017–2018 for the redesigned SAT.

OR

Career and Technology Education (CTE) external assessment that leads to a professional license or industry certification
 Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/info/CCRCCA/certifications-041217.pdf for specific programs.

OR LOCAL AGREEMENTS WITH MONTGOMERY COLLEGE:

Summative writing assessment externally validated by Montgomery College OR Grade of B or Higher in Modern World History (any level), AP Language and Composition, or Honors English 12	Summative mathematics assessment externally validated by Montgomery College OR Grade of B or Higher in Algebra II (any level)
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What if a student does not meet the requirement by the end of Grade 11?

As part of the CCRCCA, students who do not meet the standard by the end of Grade 11 must enroll in a transition course or other instructional opportunity in Grade 12. After completing the transition opportunity, students must be reassessed by the end of Grade 12. Transition options will include—

1. Completing online instructional modules in preparation for reassessment.
2. Enrolling in a course within the student’s schedule, such as College Test Prep; AP or IB English and/or mathematics courses; a Career and Technology Education (CTE) program that leads to an MSDE-approved industry certification; or a transitional course offered in partnership with Montgomery College.
3. Enrolling in the next English or mathematics course in sequence with enhancements that provide additional time and content in preparation for reassessment.

How will students know what test to take and if transition coursework is needed?

School counselors and staff will work closely with students to determine the best assessment to take in Grade 11, as well as transition options and reassessment during Grade 12, if necessary.

How can I receive more information about test options, my child’s status, and programming?

Contact your child’s school counselor or college and career information coordinator at your high school. More information also can be found at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search “CCRCCA.”

Para leer este documento en español, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ccrcca/

Pour lire ce document en français veuillez consulter le site web: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ccrcca/

請訪問網站www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ccrcca/, 查閱這份文件的中文譯本

Để đọc tài liệu này bằng tiếng Việt www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ccrcca/

한국어 번역판을 봅시다. www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ccrcca/

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