

ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Class of 2024

FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2020–2021 MCPS Graduation Requirements at a Glance

THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZES 1 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 for 2020-2021 at coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools or your school counselor for further information.

COURSE CREDITS

ENGLISH	4 credits		
FINE ARTS	1 credit designated (FA). Courses in art, dance, drama/theater, and music that satisfy the FA requirement are designated in the course bulletin.		
HEALTH EDUCATION	0.5 credit		
MATHEMATICS	4 credits , including 1 with instruction in algebra aligned with the Maryland High School Assessment for algebra or 1 or more credits in subsequent mathematics courses for which Algebra I is a prerequisite, and 1 with instruction in geometry aligned with the content standards for geometry. 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 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) credits , including 1 life science credit (BC) and 1 physical science credit (PC). Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.		
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 credits , 1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and and 1 Local Government credit required.		
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (TE)	1 credit designated TE. Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin. Advanced Technology (AT) courses do not satisfy the TE course requirement.		
ELECTIVES The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by 1 of the following three options	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
	2 credits in a world language, which may include American Sign Language AND 2.5 credits in elective courses	2 credits in Advanced Technology Education AND 2.5 credits in elective courses TE courses do not count as AT course credit.	Complete a state-approved program of study (POS) AND a minimum of 0.5 credit in elective courses or more depending on POS

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)	75 service-learning hours The SSL requirement is prorated for students enrolling in MCPS for the first time after Grade 6.
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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP) HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT (HSA) REQUIREMENTS^{1,2,3,4}

These assessment 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"> Pass the Algebra 1 assessment
ENGLISH 10	Course credit earned in English 10 or equivalent, or English 10 for ELs AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment
GOVERNMENT	Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government or equivalent AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Government assessment
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the HSA MISA during 2020-2021 or 2021-2022, OR Pass the High School Science Assessment

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

² Transfer Credit: Students transferring from outside Maryland public schools may be eligible to meet some MCAP HSA content-area requirements with transfer credit.

³ Combined test score options are available for the assessments.

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