

# ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

## Starting with Class of 2025

FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2021-2022

### 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 2021-2022 at [coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools](http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools) or your school counselor for further information.

#### COURSE CREDITS

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4 credits</b>	
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	<b>1 credit</b> designated (FA). Courses in art, dance, drama/theater, and music that satisfy the FA requirement are designated in the course bulletin.	
<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b>	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4 credits</b> , including 1with instruction in algebra aligned with the Maryland High School Assessment for algebra or one 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. <b>NEW STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER:</b> 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.	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1 credit</b>	
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) credits</b> , including 1 life science credit (BC) and 1 physical science credit (PC). Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>3 credits</b> , 1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and and 1 Local Government credit required.	
<b>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (TE)</b>	<b>1 credit</b> designated TE. Computer science, engineering, and technology-related courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.	
<b>ELECTIVES</b> The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by 1 of the following three options	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>OPTION 2</b>
	<b>2 credits</b> in a world language, which may include American Sign Language <b>AND 2.5 credits</b> in elective courses	Complete a state-approved program of study (POS) <b>AND a minimum of 0.5 credit</b> in elective courses or more depending on POS

#### STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

<b>STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)</b>	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<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

These assessment requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

<b>ALGEBRA 1</b>	Course credit earned in Algebra 1 <b>AND</b> • Pass the Algebra 1 assessment
<b>ENGLISH 10</b>	Course credit earned in English 10 or equivalent, or English 10 for ELs <b>AND</b> • Pass the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government or equivalent <b>AND</b> • Pass the Government assessment
<b>SCIENCE</b>	• Course credit earned in Biology or equivalent, <b>AND</b> • Pass the High School Science assessment

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Combined test score options are available for the assessments.

<sup>4</sup> 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.