A Quick Guide to Understanding MCAP

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) provides information to educators, families and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland state content standards. Through a strong assessment system, stakeholders gain an understanding of how schools are performing and where assistance can be directed to support student growth and achievement.

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that states administer annual statewide assessments to all students in English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L) and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school, as well as in science once in each grade band (3-5, 6-8 and high school).
- The Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), is the science assessment administered to Maryland students.
- Maryland State law (Md. Ed. Art 7-203) requires a social studies assessment once in grade 8, as well as a high school American Government assessment.
- Alternate (Alt) assessments are administered to Maryland students with significant cognitive disabilities for any federally mandated assessment.
- The annual ACCESS assessments for English Language Learners (ELLs) are administered in grades K-12.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is administered to determine a student's readiness for kindergarten.

General Education	Mathematics	English Language Arts/Literacy	Science:	Social Studies	Administration Window
Grades 3 through 8	Mathematics 3-8	ELA/L 3-8	MISA Grade 5 MISA Grade 8	Social Studies 8	Spring
High School	Algebra I Algebra II Geometry	ELA/L 10	Life Science MISA	Government	Fall/Winter & Spring

Alternate Assessment	Mathematics: 3-8, 11 English Language Arts/Literacy: 3-8, 11 MISA: 5, 8, 11 Alt ACCESS for ELLS 1-12	Administered in the spring

English Learners	Access for ELLS K-12	Administered in fall/winter

Early Childhood	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)	Administered in early fall

For additional information about the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program, see:
https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DAAIT/index.aspx