

## What You Need to Know about Changes to High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

Maryland is striving to improve education for all students by implementing new, higher standards for student learning, the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards, and aligned assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC). In school year 2014-15, the PARCC assessments in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy will replace the current State assessments in those subject areas.

As the State transitions to PARCC, assessment requirements for high school graduation are changing. The first class to be affected by these new assessment requirements are those students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in school year 2013-14, the class of 2017.

These two charts show the assessments that students in the class of 2017, 2018, and beyond will be required to take and either pass or meet the approved combined score option to meet Maryland's graduation requirements as the State transitions from the HSAs to PARCC.

**Chart #1**

School Year 2013-2014	School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Algebra/Data Analysis</li> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Algebra/Data Analysis (Mod-HSA retake only)</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I*</li> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Biology (Mod-HSA retake only)</li> <li>HSA and Mod-HSA Government (Mod-HSA retake only)</li> </ul> <p>* Students enrolled in Algebra I for the first time will take the PARCC Algebra I course/assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I**</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul> <p>** Students enrolled in Algebra I for the first time will take the PARCC Algebra I course/assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul>

Charts #1 and #2 indicate the school years in which tests can be taken.

**Chart #2**

School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017	School Year 2017-2018
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC Algebra I</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARCC English 10</li> <li>PARCC Algebra I</li> <li>HSA Biology</li> <li>HSA Government</li> </ul>

**Chart #1:** (above)

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements for Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in School Year **2013-14**

**Chart #2:** (left)

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements for Students Entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in School Year **2014-15**

# Frequently Asked Questions about Changes to Assessment Requirements for High School Graduation

## **1. *Have students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in the 2013-14 school year met their Algebra graduation assessment requirement?***

Yes, 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2013-14 school year who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA have met their Algebra graduation assessment requirement. This includes 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Algebra and 8<sup>th</sup> graders receiving high school credit in Common Core Mathematics 8 supplemented with the Data Analysis unit.

## **2. *Are students required to take and pass Algebra II in order to meet graduation course requirements?***

No. The completion of Algebra II is not a graduation course requirement; however, students must take an assessment by the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade to determine if they are college and career-ready in both ELA and math. The PARCC English 11 and the PARCC Algebra II assessments may be used for this determination.

## **3. *Some students will be meeting their graduation assessment requirements by taking the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and the PARCC English 10. Will there be a new combined score option that these students will need to meet or will they still meet either the 1208 or 1602 scores?***

Standard setting for the PARCC tests will occur in summer 2015. The passing score identified in that process for PARCC English 10 and PARCC Algebra I will be used to calculate the combined score option total that students will need in order to meet the graduation assessment requirements with a combination of HSA and PARCC tests. There will be a separate combined score for the two PARCC assessments and a separate combined score for the two HSA assessments.

## **4. *What are the high school graduation assessment requirements for those students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the school years prior to the 2013-14 school year (2012-13, 2011-12, 2010-11)? Are any of the PARCC assessments required for graduation?***

Students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2013-14 school year will meet their high school graduation assessment requirements by taking the HSAs; no PARCC assessments will be needed as graduation requirements.

## **5. *Can students who are meeting their graduation assessment requirements through HSA retake the tests more than two times or must they move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts?***

Students move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts.

## **6. *Will the Mod-HSA for Algebra/Data Analysis, English 10, Biology, and Government continue after school year 2013-14?***

The last year that first time test-takers will be taking a Mod-HSA will be in 2013-14. Students who take the Mod-HSAs and do not pass them in 2013-14 will have one additional opportunity in 2014-15 to take the Mod-HSA to meet the graduation assessment requirement. If, after the second attempt, the student does not pass the Mod-HSA, but has passed the course, the student will enter into the Bridge Validation Program. The final administration for all Mod-HSA assessments is May 2015.

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Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. State Superintendent of Schools  
Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D. President, State Board of Education  
Martin O'Malley, Governor

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**Maryland State Department of Education**, 200 W. Baltimore Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Phone: 410.767.0425 • TTY/TTD: 410.333.6442  
For questions or comments about this publication, contact 410.767.0484.