

## Parent Information

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, students participating in the [Alternate Educational Framework](#) have the opportunity to earn one or more Maryland Certificate of Program Completion (MCOPC) Endorsements. These endorsements are in the areas of Postsecondary Education, Career and Work Readiness, and Community and Citizenship.

### WHAT ARE MY CHILD'S MCOPC ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS?

There are three MCOPC Endorsement options. A student may work towards and earn one, two, or all three Endorsements.

1. **Postsecondary Education Endorsement:** This Endorsement is for students preparing to continue their academic education after high school. It highlights their readiness for further academic pursuits, such as college or technical programs. Students focusing on the Postsecondary Education Endorsements may be interested in taking non-credit courses at local colleges, enrolling in training programs, or continuing their education in other ways.
2. **Career and Work Readiness Endorsement:** This Endorsement is for students preparing to enter the workforce after high school. It highlights their skills and readiness for employment in various careers or training programs that will lead to employment.
3. **Community and Citizenship Endorsement:** This Endorsement is for students who want to be active and involved in their community. It emphasizes their contributions and readiness to participate in community activities and civic responsibilities. These activities may include volunteer work, enrollment in community groups and organizations, and active engagement with peers and community members.

### WHY ARE THE MCOPC ENDORSEMENTS IMPORTANT FOR MY CHILD?

The MCOPC Endorsements provide a way for students earning a Maryland Certificate of Program Completion to have their unique strengths and achievements formally recognized. Endorsements recognize the additional skills a student has attained to effectively demonstrate their abilities to transition to postsecondary education programs, businesses, and community organizations. Endorsements are added to the student's Maryland Certificate of Program Completion when achieved.

### HOW WILL THE MCOPC ENDORSEMENTS ENHANCE MY CHILD'S SECONDARY TRANSITION PLANNING?

The MCOPC Endorsements will help support positive outcomes for your child's transition from school to adult life in several ways:

- **Recognition of Skills and Achievements:** The Endorsements provide formal recognition of your child's specific skills and accomplishments. This can boost their confidence and self-esteem as they prepare to transition into adulthood.

- **Clear Pathways and Goals:** The Endorsements help to clarify and focus your child's goals for their future. Whether they are aiming for further education, a specific career, or active community involvement, the Endorsements provide a clear pathway to achieving these objectives.
- **Improved Postsecondary Education Opportunities:** The Postsecondary Education Endorsement signals that your child is ready for further education, such as college or technical programs that do not require a high school diploma. Attainment of this endorsement demonstrates a student's preparedness for academic challenges.
- **Enhanced Employment Prospects:** The Career Work Readiness Endorsement shows potential employers that your child has the skills and readiness for the workforce. This can make your child more competitive in the job market and prepare them for more employment opportunities.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** The Community and Citizenship Endorsement highlights your child's involvement in and contributions to the community. This can help them build a strong network of connections and support as they engage in community activities and civic responsibilities.

### WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A PARENT IN THE MCOPC ENDORSEMENT PROCESS?

Aside from the student, parents are the most important voice as a school team prepares a student for the transition into adult life. Your input is essential in understanding your child's strengths, needs, and future goals to determine the most appropriate Endorsement option(s). Parents should work together with the school to help support their child's achievement towards their selected Endorsement(s), seeking assistance as needed. We encourage you to discuss these new opportunities with your child.

For more information on The Maryland Certificate of Program Completion Endorsements visit the Secondary Transition Planning tab of the Publications and Information page at the following link:

<https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/info.aspx>

If you have additional questions about what the roll out of the MCOPC Endorsements will look like in your student's postsecondary planning, please contact your school's guidance counselor, principal, or special education administrator.