Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: October 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Update

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP).

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In December 2018, new assessment contracts for content development and test administration were awarded to design and administer new assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L), Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) 5 & 8 and Social Studies 8 under MCAP. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) was also tasked with shortening the testing lengths from the existing assessments and to move to computer adaptive testing (CAT) for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MSDE Assessment and Curriculum branches have worked together to design shorter assessments in mathematics, ELA/L and science that adequately measure the breadth and depth of the Maryland state content standards. Educators from around the state have been a part of both the design and development of these new assessments. As the MSDE builds up the item bank to support our assessments, we will administer fixed form assessments in 2019-2020 and move to CAT in ELA/L and most mathematics assessments in 2020-2021. With the development of our own assessments in state, Maryland educators will have many opportunities to be a part of the test item development, item review, scoring and standard setting.

ACTION:

For information only.

Attachment I – Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Update PowerPoint

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) Update

Assistant State Superintendent
Assessment, Accountability and Information Technology
Jennifer Judkins, Ed.D.

State Board Meeting

October 22, 2019

Assessments Under MCAP

- General Education
  - Mathematics 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
  - English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA/L) 3-8, 10
  - Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) 5, 8 & HS
  - Social Studies 8, Government

- Alternative Assessments
  - Alt Mathematics 3-8, 10
  - Alt ELA/L 3-8, 10
  - Alt MISA 5, 8 & 11

- Access for ELLs K-11

- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

New Assessment Contract

- Content Development – Educational Testing Services (ETS)
  - Mathematics 3-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
  - English language arts/literacy 3-8, 10
  - Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) 5 and 8
  - Social Studies 8
  - HS MISA and Government still with Cognia

New Assessment Contract

- Administration, Scoring and Reporting (ASR) – Pearson
  - Pearson was the previous ASR vendor for the New Meridian (PARCC) tests and for MISA 5 and 8.
  - Test coordinator and student experience should be consistent from past years.
  - HS MISA and Government still with Cognia

New Assessment Design

- Local content supervisors provided input and guidance into the development of the new design.

- All designs were presented and evaluated by our state Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

- All TAC recommendations were addressed.

Equating and Trends

- The TAC has cited the importance of having continuity across years and has provided guidance and recommendations for equating the previous assessments with the new assessments.

- MCAP assessments measure student performance against the same college and career readiness standards that were measured by our previous assessments.

- The level of student understanding necessary to achieve proficiency remains the same.

Equating and Trends

- Through the standard setting process, educators will ensure that the performance level cut scores align to the same level of performance as our previous assessment.

- The same scale scores as our previous assessment will be used to ensure that score trends can be followed.

Decreased Testing Times

Subject	Previous Times			MCAP		
Grades	Number of Units	Minutes per Unit	Total Test Time	Number of Units	Minutes per Unit	Total Test Time
Math 3-5	4	60	240	4	40	160
Math 6-8	3	80	240	4	40	160
Math HS	3	90	270	4	40	160
ELA/L 3	4	75	300	4	70	280
ELA/L 4-10	4	90	360	4	70	280
MISA 5 & 8	4	60	240	4	40	160
MISA HS	5	40	200	4	40	160
Social Studies 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	40	160

Local School Systems have the flexibility to administer multiple units in a day.
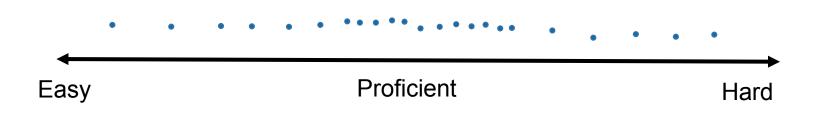
Computer Adaptive vs. Fixed Form

- In 2019-2020, the mathematics and ELA/L assessments will be fixed form due to a limited item pool this first year.

- In subsequent years, all grades in ELA/L and mathematics 3-7 and algebra I will be computer adaptive.

Fixed Form

- On a fixed form test, items must cover the full range of performance levels to allow for measurement of all students. Items are spread along the whole spectrum from easy to hard with a greater number of items around the cut scores, particularly the proficient cut.

Easy   Proficient   Hard

Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)

- A student will be given an initial set of items.

- Depending on how the student performs on this initial set of items, this performance will determine the difficulty level of the next item or set of items.

Next item for student that gets initial items incorrect

Next item for student that gets some right and some wrong for initial set

Next item for student that gets all initial items correct

Easy   Hard

Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)

- Students will continue to be assigned items that fall in a range of performance where they are getting some items right and some wrong to narrow in on the student's performance level.

- Every student will be given a number of items that fulfills the assessment blueprint to ensure that the tested items reflect the content for that grade and subject, as well as the emphasis of that content.

Exciting times!

- We are excited to be developing our own assessments.

- This development provides the opportunity for Maryland to make choices that reflect the needs of our state.

- The involvement of educators in the assessment process is an excellent professional development experience.

Thank you