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Superintendent of Schools
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April 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Maryland students participate in the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment/Test (MISA) in Grades 5 and 8 and once in high school. MISA measures student learning and mastery of the Maryland Next Generation Science Standards. The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires these assessments/tests.

Please note the following:

- Biology is a Maryland high school graduation requirement.
- All students who take a high school-level life science course (Biology/Honors Biology) are required to take the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (LS MISA) end-of-course (EOC) exam.
- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year (SY), for any **ninth-grade student** who takes a high school-level life science course, the **end-of-course (EOC) exam will count for 20% of students' final grade for their life science course.**

Please refer to the FAQ document [End of Course Assessment FAQ \(September 2023\)](#).

On July 25, 2023, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted COMAR 13A.03.02 *Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland* and 13A.03.04 *Test Administration and Data Reporting Policies and Procedures*.

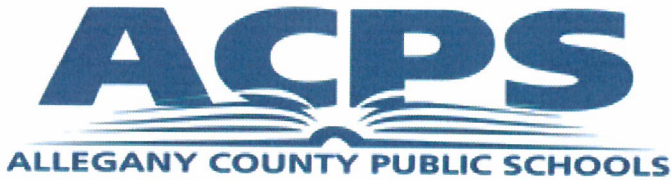
MCAP MISA End-of-Course Exam Grade Conversion Score

Grade Conversion Score (GCS) Model

In order to convert students' assessment scores from the LS MISA into a grade, a GCS model was created by the MSDE. In the GCS model, the **lowest grade conversion score** on the EOC exam has been **set at 50%**. In other words, the lowest score that will be averaged into a student's grade from the End-of-Course Maryland State Integrated Science Assessment is 50%.

Please note that students could possibly fail the Life Science (Biology) course if their course grade is low and if they receive a low score on the EOC exam. Moreover, course grades could be impacted in a positive or negative way depending on their score on the EOC exam.

"Great Teaching. Great Learning. Every Student. Every Day."



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Since the final day of school for the 2023-2024 year in ACPS is Thursday, May 30, 2024, it is probable that results from the MCAP MISA will not be available to school systems.

Therefore, the final course grade indicated for Biology/ Honors Biology may not be accurate until the EOC exam has been calculated into the course grade.

If a student fails Biology, he/she may recover the course in summer school if he/she meets the minimum academic requirement for summer school recovery. School counselors will inform parents/students about any grade changes or course failures because of the EOC exam.

Please contact your child's school counselor if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Eric VanSlyke", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Eric VanSlyke
Supervisor of Science