

MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The Maryland High School Diploma is awarded in recognition of the fulfillment of the minimum enrollment, competency prerequisite, credit, and student service requirements. Students who meet the following requirements shall be awarded a Maryland High School Diploma.

Specified Core Credit Requirements

Credits	Subject Area
4	English
4*	Mathematics one with algebraic concepts one with geometric concepts *additional math credits (see below)
3	Science One in Biology Two with laboratory experiences
3	Social Studies U.S. History World History Local, State, Federal Government
1	Fine Arts
1	Physical Education
1	Technology Education
.5	Health Education
.5	Personal Financial Literacy

Choose one of the following:

2	World Language (in sequence preferred)
2	Advanced Technology
4-6	State approved Career/ Technology Completer Program
19-24	Total Core Credits
3	Electives
23-27	Minimum Total Credits Required

Additional Requirements

In addition to the specified core credit requirements for a Maryland High School Diploma:

- Students must complete 75 hours of Student Service Learning.
- Students must satisfactorily complete four years of approved study beyond grade eight.
- Students must take the Algebra I and English 10 PARCC assessments to meet graduation requirements in 2016-17.
- Beginning in 2015-16, all 11th graders who have not met a CCR indicator for ELA and mathematics by the end of the junior year will be enrolled in a transition experience during their senior year for ELA and/or math. This is in addition to a required ELA or math class needed for graduation.
- Students earning Algebra I credit in grade 8 are required to take a minimum of 4 additional math credits in grades 9-12, including Geometry.
- Beginning with students entering 9th grade in 2014-15 school year, a minimum of 4 credits of high school mathematics are required for graduation, raising the minimum for graduation to 23 credits. For the class of 2018 and thereafter, the minimum requirement for graduation is 23 credits.
- Students earning World Language credit in grade 8 are required to take a minimum of 2 additional World Language classes while in grades 9-12.
- Environmental Literacy Standards and experiences are infused throughout the Pre K-12 curriculum.
- Students entering 9th grade in school year 2013-14 and beyond MUST either pass the Government HSA or include the Government HSA score to meet the required combined score.

ACPS Certificates

In addition to earning the Maryland High School Diploma, students who earn at least 12 credits in honors courses as indicated in the course descriptions, Section IV during their high school program and meet the following GPA requirements shall be eligible for a

Honors Certificate

Cumulative Weighted Grade Point Average—3.5 GPA

Students shall obtain at least a 3.5 total cumulative weighted grade point average for the high school years.

Auditing a Course

A student is enrolled in a course identified in the Program of Study, but is not to be assigned a grade. It will be noted on their transcript that the course was audited, no grade will be provided, no credit will be earned and the GPA will not be affected in any way. This applies to eighth period classes offered before or after regular school hours, teachers' aides, and office aides.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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Maryland High School Assessments (HSA)

HSA tests in English II and Algebra I were replaced by PARCC assessments during the 2014-2015 school year. Students who took HSA tests will continue in the HSA track to meet HSA graduation requirements. Students who take both HSA and PARCC tests will need to meet new HSA/PARCC graduation requirements which have yet to be determined. Students will still take a HSA for Biology and Government.

Students have three ways to meet the High School Assessment requirement:

1. Pass all HSA/PARCC Tests

<u>Content Area</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>
Algebra/Data Analysis	HSA-412, PARCC-TBD
Biology	400
English II	HSA-396, PARCC-TBD
Government	394

Students entering 9th grade during the 2013-2014 school year and beyond must take and pass the Government HSA. Students entering 9th grade prior to 2013-2014 are not required to pass the Government HSA.

Beginning the 2017-18 school year and beyond, the HSA Biology will be replaced by the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA).

2. Obtain a combined score

This option allows students who may not pass one test and do exceptionally well on another test, to meet the High School Assessment requirement. For students entering 9th grade prior to the 2013-2014 school year, the combined score is 1208 if they did not take or pass the Government HSA. If they took and passed the Government HSA, the combined score is 1602. For students entering 9th grade in 2013-2014, the combined score of 1602 is required. The combined score has yet to be determined for students taking the PARCC tests.

3. Complete the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

For students who have not achieved the passing score or the combined score, the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation is available in Allegany County Public Schools.

For questions about students receiving Special Education services, please call 301-759-2084.

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Coursework Options for High School Content

Weights for GPA Calculation by Course Title			
Grade	Academic	Honors & Dual Enrollment	Advanced Placement
A	4	4.5	5
B	3	3.5	4
C	2	2.5	3
D	1	1	1

Allegany County Public Schools Offers Four Levels of Courses	
Academic 4.0 GPA scale	includes Essential Learner Outcomes or core content identified in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards or Maryland Core Learning Goals.
Honors 4.5 GPA scale	includes content in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards or the Maryland Core Learning Goals that includes an increased emphasis on the synthesis of content knowledge demonstrated by an integration of reading and writing processes.
Dual Enrollment or Early College on-site 4.5 GPA scale	includes syllabi content that represents the highest common standards between ACPS and the cooperating college. Successful completion (a grade of C or better) awards a student ACPS credit and local college credit hours. A grade of D may not be transferable to other institutions.
Advanced Placement 5.0 GPA scale	includes content in the Advanced Placement Course Outline approved by the College Board. College credit is awarded based on the AP test score and the standards set by the receiving college/university. A student must take the Advanced Placement examination to receive the 5.0 weight; a student who does not take the Advanced Placement examination will receive the 4.5 weighted GPA.