



FACT SHEET: Microsoft IT Academies in Maryland

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in partnership with Microsoft is launching 25 new Microsoft IT Academies in Maryland. Microsoft will provide a one-year license for the Microsoft IT Academy program to 25 high schools in 10 county school systems. *All* students in the receiving high school--not just those taking computer science courses--will have access to on-line courses and tutorials, and teachers receive unlimited access to instructional tools. While many students currently use Microsoft applications as part of daily instruction, creating documents, or completing assignments, not all students receive instruction in the use of advanced applications or computing. The Microsoft IT Academy resources are designed to help students learn about computing and advance their technical skills in a wide range of Microsoft applications. Through the program, more students will have access to technology tools and tutorials through an on-line Academy.

The 25 high schools selected to pilot the first Maryland Microsoft IT Academies were chosen based on enrollment in existing computer science courses and their interest in expanding Career Technology Education (CTE) programs in Information Technology and Computer Science. Microsoft and MSDE will provide IT resources and professional development for teachers and administrators in the IT academy schools. The 25 IT academy high schools will establish a *Certiport Assessment Center* to provide students with opportunities to graduate high school with their Maryland state diploma and IT certifications, including the Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) certification.

MTA is an optional industry-recognized certification for those pursuing a career path in IT infrastructure, database design, or software development using Microsoft technologies. Students must pass just one exam to achieve certification, giving them an encouraging first step toward a career in technology. For IT Academy participants, MTA enhances understanding of IT fundamentals and validates core knowledge. The certification fits well into the existing curriculum to bridge the gap to more advanced certifications and gives program participants another impressive accomplishment on their resumes.

School System	
Anne Arundel (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesapeake HS • Meade HS
Baltimore City (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Harbor HS • Baltimore Polytechnic Institute • Coppin Academy
Baltimore Co. (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dulaney HS • Western Tech • Catonsville HS • Eastern Tech • Sparrows Point
Caroline (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Caroline HS

Charles (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Stone
Frederick (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuscarora HS • Frederick HS • Middletown HS • Gov. Thomas Johnson HS • Catoctin HS
Garrett (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern HS • Southern HS
Prince Georges (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Point HS
St. Mary's (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonardtown HS • Chopticon
Worcester (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Decatur HS • Pocomoke HS • Worcester Technical HS

Each school will be provided orientation materials and assistance in providing online access for all high school students and their teachers. Computer Science teachers will serve as the point-of-contact for the IT Academy and will receive additional professional development on the use of Microsoft IT Academy resources related to Computer Science and Career Technology Education (CTE) courses.

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