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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: February 25, 2014
SUBJECT: Transition from Current High School Assessments to PARCC High School Assessments

PURPOSE:

To request that the State Board adopt the framework for transitioning from the current High School Assessments to the PARCC High School Assessments

BACKGROUND:

Attached are charts that highlight the suggested changes as Maryland transitions from the current high school assessment instruments in 2013-2014 to the PARCC high school assessment instrument in 2014-2015. The charts and accompanying "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) include the High School Graduation Assessment Requirements, High School Assessment Requirements and the Bridge Validation Program. Since the transition period covers multiple school years, there are charts that highlight the expected requirements for students who enter ninth grade during the 2013-2014 school year as well as requirements for students who enter ninth grade in 2014-2015. These documents will be used by LEAs to inform communications with staff, students and parents.

The FAQs provide answers to questions and address various scenarios related to a student's participation in the high school assessment program as part of the state graduation requirements. Initial drafts of these documents were provided to the State Board at the January 28, 2014 meeting. Both the FAQs and the transition charts will be discussed during the State Board meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

ACTION:

I am requesting that the State Board adopt the framework for transitioning from the current High School Assessment instruments to the PARCC Assessment instruments.

Attachments

High School Assessments

For students entering 9th grade in school year 2013-2014
(who are first-time test-takers)

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year 2013-2014	School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I (1st time enrolled in Alg I) • PARCC Geometry • PARCC Algebra II* • PARCC English 10 • HSA Biology • HSA Government <p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • PARCC Geometry • PARCC Algebra II* • PARCC English 11* • HSA Biology • HSA Government <p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II and PARCC English 11)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Geometry • PARCC Algebra II* • HSA Biology • HSA Government <p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II)</p>

High School Assessments

For students entering 9th grade in school year 2014-2015
(who are first-time test-takers)

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year	School Year	School Year	School Year
2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC Algebra I• PARCC Geometry• PARCC English 9• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC Algebra I• PARCC Geometry• PARCC Algebra II*• PARCC English 10• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC Algebra I• PARCC Geometry• PARCC Algebra II*• PARCC English 11*• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC Geometry• PARCC Algebra II*• HSA Biology• HSA Government
	<p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II)</p>	<p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II and PARCC English 11)</p>	<p>*Determines College and Career Readiness (PARCC Algebra II)</p>

High School Assessments

1. **If the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA is taken in middle school in the 2013-2014 school year and passed, does the student have to take PARCC Algebra I in 9th grade? What if the student fails the test in 8th grade?**

A student who passed the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in grade 8 in school year 2013-14 would not take PARCC Algebra I in 9th grade. A student who failed the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in grade 8 in school year 2013-14 would take PARCC Algebra I in 9th grade.

A student who passed the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in grade 7 or below in school year 2013-14 and earned high school credit for their algebra course will not be required to take the PARCC Algebra I test in 2014-15 or in a future school year. However, a student who failed the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in grade 7 or below in school year 2013-14 will need to take PARCC Algebra I in 2014-15 or in a future school year.

2. **High school assessment information previously shared with LEAs indicates that 10th graders in 2014-2015 will take PARCC English 10 and yet Bridge Program information previously shared does not state that. Could you clarify this high school English transition?**

Students who entered 9th grade in 2013-2014 will take PARCC English 10 in 2014-2015.

3. **How many PARCC administrations will be available in the 2014-2015 school year?**

There will be three PARCC administrations during the 2014-2015 school year; November/December 2014, March/May 2015, and Summer 2015.

*** After the 2014-2015 school year, must school systems participate in all PARCC administrations offered during a school year?**

School systems with block scheduling will participate in the November/December and March/May administrations. School systems with year-long courses will participate in the March/May administration. School systems that offer summer school programs in the tested areas, can use the Summer 2015 administration for students receiving remediation and/or taking credit-bearing courses.

4. **Can a student retake a PARCC assessment more than once in a school year?**

Yes, after completing the associated Maryland's College and Career-Ready-aligned course, a student can participate in any of the PARCC administrations offered in the remaining portion of that school year. For example, a student first taking a PARCC assessment during the November/December administration can retake the test in the subsequent March/May and/or Summer administration.

- 5. What are the passing scores for the PARCC assessments? Will there be a combined score option for PARCC?**

Standard setting will take place in Summer 2015 to identify passing cut scores for all PARCC assessments. After that a combined score option will be identified for the PARCC assessments required for graduation.

- 6. After 2013-2014, will there continue to be five HSA administrations each school year?**

Yes, each school year will continue to include the October, January, May, and Summer administrations, and for Seniors only, the April administration.

- 7. Will HSAs continue to be offered in both paper/pencil and online format after 2013-2014?**

The HSAs will be offered in both paper/pencil and online format in the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 school years. Starting with the 2017-2018 school year, the HSAs will be offered online, with paper/pencil only available for students with IEPs that preclude taking the assessments online.

- 8. What will be the last administration of the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and the English HSA?**

The last administration for both the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and the English HSA will be the May 2016 administration.

- 9. Will HSA Biology and HSA Government continue as graduation assessment requirements?**

Yes.

- 10. What high school assessments do students take to determine "College and Career" readiness?**

The PARCC English 11 and PARCC Algebra II assessments will be taken to determine "College and Career" readiness.

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

(chart indicates school years in which tests can be taken)

Students entering high school in school year, 2013-2014

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year 2013-2014	School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017
Grade 9			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis • PARCC Algebra I* • HSA Biology • HSA Government <p><i>*Students enrolled in Algebra I for the first time will take the PARCC Algebra I course/assessment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis* • PARCC Algebra I** • HSA Biology • HSA Government <p><i>* Last attempt for re-take purposes only **Students enrolled in Algebra I for the first time will take the PARCC Algebra I course/assessment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis • HSA Biology • HSA Government
Grade 10			
Grade 11			
Grade 12			

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

(chart indicates school years in which tests can be taken)

For students entering 9th grade in school year 2014-2015

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year	School Year	School Year	School Year
2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC Algebra I• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC English 10• PARCC Algebra I• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC English 10• PARCC Algebra I• HSA Biology• HSA Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARCC English 10• PARCC Algebra I• HSA Biology• HSA Government

High School Graduation Assessment Requirements

1. **If a student currently enrolled in high school fails an Algebra/Data Analysis course at the end of the 2013-2014 and also fails the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA this spring (2014), and then takes an Algebra I, Maryland College-and-Career Ready course during the 2014-2015 school year, is this student's high school graduation requirement Algebra/Data Analysis HSA or PARCC Algebra I?**

In this scenario, the student's high school graduation assessment requirement would be the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA.

*** What if a student passes the Algebra I course but fails the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in the school year 2013-2014, does the student retake the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA or take PARCC Algebra I assessment to meet their graduation assessment requirement?**

In this scenario, the student would retake the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and could move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts at the test.

*** Would the answers to these questions also apply to a student taking English 10 in the 2013-2014 school year?**

Yes, a student who takes English 10 in the 2013-2014 school year and fails the English HSA would continue to be required to meet the high school graduation assessment requirement by retaking the English HSA.

2. **Students entering 9th grade in 2014-2015 will take PARCC Algebra I to meet the high school graduation requirement. What if a student has not passed the PARCC Algebra I assessment by 12th grade? Will he/she be able to take it again in 12th grade or will he/she have to meet the graduation requirement through the Bridge Validation Program?**

In this scenario, if the student has attempted PARCC Algebra I at least two times, he/she has the option to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment again in the November/December 2017 administration or participate in the Bridge Validation Program.

3. **Have students in 8th grade who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in the 2013-2014 school year met their Algebra graduation assessment requirement ?**

Yes, 8th graders in the 2013-2014 school year who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA have met their Algebra graduation assessment requirement.

*** What about 7th graders who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in the 2013-2014 school year?**

Students in 7th grade, or below, who take and pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA have met their Algebra graduation assessment requirement only if they are receiving high school credit for their algebra course.

- 4. Can students who are meeting their graduation assessment requirements through HSA retake the tests more than 2 times or must they move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts?**

Students have the option to continue to take the HSA(s) to meet the required combined score option or they can choose to move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts.

- 5. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, what will be the "exemption" requirements for 10th grade through 12th grade out-of-state transfer students?**

The current "exemption" criteria as stated in COMAR 13A.03.02.12.B(2) will continue to be applicable to out-of-state students who transfer in as 10th, 11th, or 12th graders.

- 6. What will be the graduation requirements for out-of-state transfer students who need to take high school assessments?**

Out-of-state transfer students who are expected to graduate in 2014-2015, 2015-2016, or 2016-2017 will meet their high school assessment requirements by taking the HSAs. Out-of-state transfer students who graduate after the 2016-2017 school year, will meet their high school assessment requirements by taking the PARCC assessments.

- 7. What are the high school graduation assessment requirements for those students who entered 9th grade in the school years prior to the 2013-2014 school year (2012-2013, 2011-2012, 2010-2011)? Are any of these PARCC assessments required for graduation?**

Students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2013-2014 school year will meet their high school graduation assessment requirements by taking the HSAs; no PARCC assessments will be needed as graduation requirements.

- 8. Some students will be meeting their graduation assessment requirements by taking the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and the PARCC English 10. Will there be a new combined score option that these students will need to meet or will they still meet either the 1208 or 1602 scores?**

Standard setting for the PARCC tests will occur in Summer 2015. The passing score identified in that process for PARCC English 10 will be used to calculate the combined score option total students will need in order to meet their graduation assessment requirements with a combination of HSA and PARCC tests.

Bridge Validation Program

For students entering 9th grade in school year 2013-2014

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year 2013-2014	School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017
Grade 9			
<p>1st test administration for graduation assessment requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSA Algebra/ Data Analysis • HSA Biology • HSA Government 			
Grade 10			
<p>1st test administration for graduation assessment requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I (enrolled in Alg I for 1st time) <p>2nd test administration for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSA Algebra/Data Analysis • HSA Biology • HSA Government 			
Grade 11			
		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (3 PARCC and 4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
Grade 12			
		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (1 PARCC and 3 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
		<p>Bridge Validation Program continues after 2nd test attempt to meet graduation assessment requirements</p>	

Bridge Validation Program

For students entering 9th grade in school year 2014-2015

(DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY)

School Year 2014-2015	School Year 2015-2016	School Year 2016-2017	School Year 2017-2018
Grade 9			
<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 <p>2nd test administration for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (3 PARCC and 4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 		
Grade 10			
<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 <p>2nd test administration for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (3 PARCC and 4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (3 PARCC and 4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
Grade 11			
<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 <p>2nd test administration for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (3 PARCC and 4 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (1 PARCC and 3 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
Grade 12			
<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (1 PARCC and 3 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
<p>1st test administration for assessment requirements for graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 		<p>2nd test administration continues for students who have not met graduation assessment requirements (1 PARCC and 3 HSA testing opportunities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARCC English 10 • PARCC Algebra I • HSA Biology • HSA Government 	
Bridge Validation			
<p>Bridge Validation Program begins after 2nd test attempt to meet graduation assessment requirements</p>		<p>Bridge Validation Program continues after 2nd test attempt to meet graduation assessment requirements</p>	

Bridge Validation Program

1. When will the 1st assessment administration occur as part of the Bridge Validation Program?

Students enrolled in Algebra I, HSA Biology, HSA Government may take the test for the first time as early as 9th grade depending upon their enrollment in the course. The first administration of English 10 will occur once the students complete the English 10 course, usually during their second year of high school.

2. After the 1st administration of assessments, when will students be able to participate in the 2nd administration of the tests before beginning the Bridge Validation Program?

2nd Assessment Administrations Available for 2013-2014 9th graders

School Year	HSA Administrations	PARCC Administrations
2014-2015	October 2014, January 2015, May 2015, Summer 2015	November/December 2014, March/May 2015, Summer 2015
2015-2016	October 2015, January 2016, May 2016, Summer 2016	November/December 2015, March/May 2016, Summer 2016
2016-2017	October 2016, January 2017, May 2017	November/December 2016

2nd Assessment Administrations Available for 2014-2015 9th graders

School Year	HSA Administrations	PARCC Administrations
2015-2016	October 2015, January 2016, May 2016, Summer 2016	November/December 2015, March/May 2016, Summer 2016
2016-2017	October 2016, January 2017, May 2017, Summer 2017	November/December 2016, March/May 2017, Summer 2017
2017-2018	October 2017, January 2018, May 2018	November/December 2017

3. Will there be a Bridge Validation Program for the PARCC assessments? Will the participation requirements be the same as they are for the HSAs?

Yes, there will be a Bridge Validation Program for the PARCC assessments. The criteria for participating in a PARCC Bridge Validation Program will remain the same.

- 4. Students entering 9th grade in 2014-2015 will take PARCC Algebra I to meet the high school graduation requirement. What if a student has not passed the PARCC Algebra I assessment by 12th grade? Will he/she be able to take it again in 12th grade or will he/she have to meet the graduation requirement through the Bridge Program?**

In this scenario, if the student has attempted PARCC Algebra I at least two times, he/she has the option to take the PARCC Algebra I assessment again in the November/December 2017 administration or participate in the Bridge Validation Program.

- 5. Can students who are meeting their graduation assessment requirements through HSAs retake the tests more than 2 times or must they move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts?**

Students have the option to continue to take the HSA(s) to meet the required combined score option or they can choose to move to the Bridge Validation Program after two failed attempts.

- 6. If a student's 2nd HSA failure was during the October HSA administration or January HSA administration, does the student have to wait until the summer to start bridge projects or can he/she start them during that current school year?**

A student can participate in the Bridge Validation Program, as soon as they have met the required criteria as stated in COMAR 13A.03.02.09.C(2).