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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: October 28, 2014
SUBJECT: Graduation Assessment Requirements – English 10 and Algebra I

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memo is to present a recommendation to you concerning graduation assessment requirements during the upcoming two years of transition from the HSA English and HSA Algebra assessments to PARCC English 10 and PARCC Algebra I assessments.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

As the Department and the public schools of Maryland undertook planning for the transition to the PARCC Assessments, we have kept our eye on school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 because those years would be the most challenging in balancing the testing requirements and graduation assessment requirements. The first challenge concerns the opportunity to retake the HSA English and Algebra assessments. That opportunity will end at the close of the 2014-2015 school year. Students who are in grades 12 and 11 in school year 2014-2015 who have not passed the English or Algebra HSAs and the re-testers in lower grades will not have met the English and/or Algebra HSA assessment graduation requirements and in school year 2014-2015 their opportunity to do so will expire. Shifting these students to PARCC assessments would present significant challenges to those students.

The second challenge relates to when the PARCC English 10 and Algebra I results will be available. The test results must be sufficiently analyzed to do standard setting to establish a cut score for passing the tests. Our best prediction is that cut scores will be available in December 2015. That is mid-way through the 2015-2016 school year. Thus, those student taking the PARCC English 10 and Algebra I assessments in school year 2014-2015 will not know if they passed until December 2015 and their PARCC re-take opportunities will occur late in the 2015-2016 school year.

Thus, during these two transition years, there is some misalignment in testing opportunities and in obtaining PARCC results quickly.

Passing the HSA or PARCC assessments carries the high stakes of being a graduation requirement. Yet, the transition challenges add more uncertainties for students in school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 who have not passed the requisite assessment. Those challenges will affect their ability to graduate. Just as teachers requested relief from high-stakes evaluation during the transition years, on behalf of our students, we have developed a plan to provide students with similar relief.

SUMMARY:

The plan we will present to you at the Board meeting will address four categories of students in the two transition years of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

- HSA Algebra I – re-testers in 2014-2015
- HSA English – re-testers in 2014-2015
- PARCC Algebra I – first time test takers in 2014-2015
- PARCC English 10 – first time test takers in 2014-2015

We will explain that, just as the State Board did when it phased in the HSAs to become graduation requirements, we propose, over the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, to phase in passing PARCC English 10 and Algebra I as graduation assessment requirements and phase out passing the HSA English and Algebra assessments to graduate. We will recommend that passing PARCC English 10 and Algebra I become graduation assessment requirements in the 2016-2017 school year.

ACTION:

I will request your approval of an HSA to PARCC English/Algebra Transition for school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Partnership for Assessment for College and Career Readiness (PARCC)

- June 3, 2010
Maryland became a member of PARCC
 - July 5, 2011
Maryland recommitted to participation as a governing state in PARCC
 - 2013-2014
Maryland field-tested PARCC
 - 2014-2015
Full implementation of PARCC assessments
 - Fall 2015
PARCC achievement levels to be set
- ✓ Maryland originally planned to administer all 6 PARCC assessments: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; English 9, English 10, English 11
 - ✓ **However, in October 2014, Maryland accepted the following assessment schedule for SY 2014-2015: Algebra I, Algebra II, and English 10**
 - ✓ In *Fall 2015*, PARCC achievement levels will be set

Considerations for PARCC levels setting

The Consortium and State will have raw scores to begin standards setting by late August-early September 2015.

The standards setting is more complex than a 0-100 percent grading scale. We need actual performance data on the items themselves before we can set standards.

The complexity of the assessment parts and items vary types, content areas, and range from (very difficult to difficult).

We must determine performance levels based on the raw data across the board, where students are on a continuum before we can set standards across functions, e.g., writing, literary analyses, vocabulary, reading; and mathematical processes and preciseness (answer right or wrong).

Standards setting steps:

1. PARCC uses total consortium data to set the 5 performance levels.
2. Higher Ed simultaneously reviews data to set CCR levels.
3. Maryland review to set graduation requirements.

e.g., Advanced Placement levels 1-5, with 3-5 considered CCR.



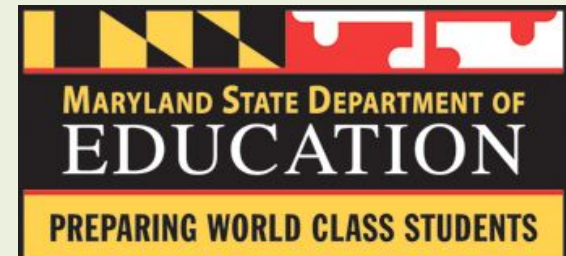
Considerations for PARCC levels setting

What is the standards level process?

1. Each state in the consortium will have a standards setting group of 30 people, including PreK-12, IHEs, business and community leaders, etc
 2. While representing the state, the group will work with Pearson, ETS, and PARCC, Inc in a centralized location with other state teams to implement the standards setting process.
 3. Groups will disaggregate by grade span (3-5; 6-8; high school; ELA; mathematics, etc.)
1. The collective state groups will compare PARCC data to similar assessments, e.g., SAT, ACT, previous state assessments, and other external assessments as benchmarks.
 2. Next the collective state groups will recommend cut scores for the five PARCC levels to the PARCC Governing Board comprised of state DOEs at the Pre-K-12 and IHE representatives.
 3. The Governing Board will approve (or not) the recommended cut scores.

Next Steps: Transitioning Graduation Requirements 2014 - 2017

October 28, 2014

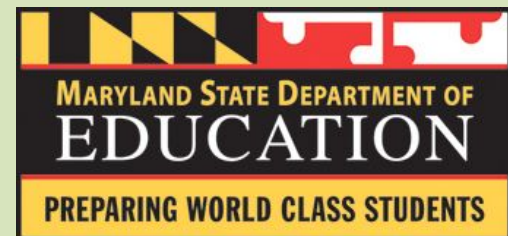


Moving from graduation requirements in English and Algebra 1 based on HSAs to requirements based on PARCC

- High school graduation requirements
- College and Career Ready College Completion Act of 2013

Rationale:

- Timeline and logistics: new assessments, new results
- Curricular program gaps
- Planning for 2016-2017 and beyond



		2014-2015 School Year	2015-2016 School Year	Graduation Requirement
Algebra I <i>HSA-related Course</i>	All Students who are HSA re-testers	Re-take HSA Participation required	No further test required	Met
English 10 <i>HSA-related Course</i>	All Students who are HSA re-testers	Re-take HSA Participation required	No further test required	Met
Algebra I <i>PARCC-related Course</i>	All Students who are Algebra I PARCC first time test takers	Take PARCC Assessment Participation required	No further test required	Met
English 10 <i>PARCC-related Course</i>	All Students who are English 10 PARCC first time test takers	Take PARCC Assessment Participation required	No further test required	Met

LIMITATIONS:

- HSA Algebra and English 10 re-tests in School Year 2014- 2015 only: Last re-test administration will be Summer, 2015

- Due to standard setting, 2014-2015 PARCC results may not be available until December 2015 of the 2015-2016 school year

- PARCC Assessments administered in 2014-2015 include Alg 1, Alg 2, and Eng 10.

Graduation assessment requirements now and in the future

For students enrolled in these courses during 2014-15 and 2015-16

To meet the graduation requirement, students must:

Government

- Pass the course AND pass the HSA test, the HSA re-test, or the Bridge Plan

Biology

- Pass the course AND pass the HSA test, the HSA re-test, or the Bridge Plan

Algebra 1 – first time Algebra 1 students

- Pass the course AND participate in the PARCC test

English 10 – first time English 10 students

- Pass the course AND participate in the PARCC test

For students who passed these courses before 2014-15 but did not complete their graduation assessment requirements

To meet the graduation requirement, students must:

Algebra 1:

- Pass the HSA re-test or continue Bridge Plan work through 2014-2015 school year

English 10:

- Pass the HSA re-test or continue Bridge Plan work through 2014-2015 school year

For students enrolled in these courses during 2016-17 and beyond

To meet the graduation requirement in the following courses, students must:

Government

- Pass the course AND pass the HSA test, the HSA re-test, or the Bridge Plan

Biology

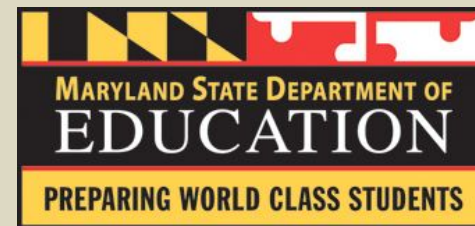
- Pass the course AND pass the HSA test, the HSA re-test, or the Bridge Plan

Algebra 1

- Pass the course AND pass the PARCC, the PARCC re-test, or the Bridge Plan

English 10

- Pass the course AND pass the PARCC, the PARCC re-test, or the Bridge Plan



Completing the picture for the class of 2017 and beyond

College and Career-Ready and College Completion Act of 2013

- PARCC Algebra 2 (2014-2015 and beyond) or other college placement assessment
- PARCC English 11 (needs to be administered beginning in 2015-16) or other college placement assessment
- Transition courses for 12th graders must be provided beginning 2016-17

