

A photograph of four high school students sitting around a table in a library, engaged in a study session. They are looking at books and a laptop. The background is filled with bookshelves. The image has a dark overlay to make the text stand out.

Proposed Changes to Maryland State High School Graduation Requirements

MCCPTA

Town Hall on Maryland High School Graduation Requirements



Overview: Increase credits required to graduate and from 21 to 22. The 4 required stand-alone state MCAP tests would become end-of-course assessments worth 20% of the final grade in the respective class.



Analysis: Changes in credits continue a move in the wrong direction, while changes in state-required assessments may have predictable, unintended consequences.



Advocacy: MSDE will publish the proposed changes this spring, and MCCPTA plans to submit public comments.

Background

- Maryland High School Graduation Task Force met 14 times in 2018 to make recommendations for credit and program requirements (number of credits, subject areas), assessments, and options for awarding high school diplomas.
- Maryland State Board of Education discussed and agreed with recommendations over the course of several board meetings in 2019 and 2020.
- Would apply to Class of 2025 (students entering 9th grade in 2021-22). This may affect course selections this fall!

Changes to Course Requirements

- Math credits: Increase from 3 credits to 4.
- Health credits: Increase from $\frac{1}{2}$ credit to 1.
- Total credits: Increase from 21 to 22.
- Technology Education: Change subject matter to Computer Science, Engineering, or Technology Education.
- Electives: For world language option (2 credits), both credits must be in the same world language.

Changes to Assessment Requirements

- Algebra, English 10, Science (MISA) and American Government state assessments (MCAP) would change from stand-alone graduation requirements to count 20% of final grade in the related course.
- For 2020-21 and 2021-22, students must take the exams but are not required to pass. (For 2020-21, seniors do not need to take American Government exam.)
- Beginning 2022-23, students must take the end-of-course exams, and scores will count for 20% of the student's grade in the respective course.

State Regulation: COMAR

- MSDE published the proposed changes in the Maryland register on April 9.
- Comments are due May 10.
- Maryland State Board of Education meets May 25 to consider the comments and make a final decision.

Extras

- The 4 mandatory tests now called “Maryland Comprehensive Assessments” and MCAP is the MCA Program.
- The report card will only say whether the student has or hasn’t taken the required assessments.
- MSDE also changing COMAR requirements for advanced technology curriculum, to use new computer science or technology and engineering standards/



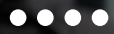
MCCPTA Analysis: We Are Concerned. These changes will:

Push more students into college-level math classes based on flawed analysis of benefits.

Reduce course subject flexibility.

Incorporate high-stakes standardized testing into student grades.

THANK YOU



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