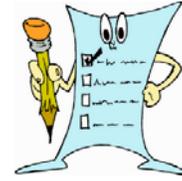


# About High School State Testing!



High School can be stressful. In addition to classes, extra-curricular activities, and the social scene, students must pass four exams to receive a diploma in the State of Maryland. There are many changes in these exams over the years, and what year your child will graduate may determine the requirements which may differ from others who will graduate in a different year. If that is not confusing enough, the requirements may change from one year to the next. (Fortunately, when changes occur, students are typically grandfathered in!) What should parents and guardians do?

First: Don't panic! Your child's school counselor can assist you and your child to know what requirements are necessary for graduation, including what opportunities are available for your child to prepare him/her for the next step in life! Secondly, ensure you have updated information for the school messenger system as it is how we notify parents when their children are scheduled to take a State Test. Thirdly, on testing days, make certain that your child arrives to school on-time with their fully charged device and charger. (For some tests, the charger will be needed!)

Currently there are four areas where students are tested:

- English – The current exam is called PARCC ELA 10. It is given to students at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year after taking English 10. This exam is typically broken into three 90-minute sessions given over the course of two to three days. (I say “typically” because every so many years, students must pilot a fourth section.) Currently, students must pass the test with a 725 to be considered having “Met” this requirement.
- Algebra – All students must attain a score of 725 for PARCC Algebra I. Some students complete this in middle school. (Those who pass PARCC Algebra I in middle school will take a PARCC math exam in Geometry or Algebra II in their ninth-grade year to meet the requirement for college and career readiness.)
  - It's important to note that students with a combined score of 1450 for PARCC ELA 10 and Algebra I will also be considered as “Met.”
  - Students who fail the test twice might also be invited to complete a Bridge Project to make up points that are missing, but we prefer students to pass the test!

High School Assessments have changed. Before, they were three 45-minute sessions. They are now five 40-minute sections.

- Science – To meet this requirement, students must have attained a score of 400 on the HSA Biology test prior to 2016 or they must have participated in the HSA Biology exam in 2017. After this date, participation in the Maryland Integrated Science Test (MISA) will also count until the end of this year. Then students will have to pass the test to receive the “Met” status. (We do not have a pass score for this test yet, but we expect one next year.)
- American Government – To meet this requirement, students had to score a minimum of 394 on the HSA for American Government. Although the test now has five sections, the score will stay the same. As with PARCC, students may receive a “Met” status with a combined HSA score of 794 in (Biology & American Government only) or would be offered a bridge project after failing the American Government exam for a second time. At this time, MISA will not be counted in the combined score.

Students who work on Bridge Projects should continue to test until they pass their exam, or their Bridge Projects are accepted by the State. As mentioned before, it is important to remember that **THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING ANY FUTURE REVISIONS MADE TO THE CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS (COMAR) BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

Parents have asked whether their child could be exempt from testing. Students who attain the credit for English 10, American Government, or Algebra I in a Maryland public school are expected to take the State Exams for those classes. There are approved substitutes for State Tests in the form of a limited number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams IF students attain sufficient scores. Again, your child's school counselor could better advise.

Testing is very stressful to students. The next article will be how you can prepare your child for testing. If you cannot wait, you can contact your child's teacher for each subject or contact the content department chairs. (English – [cturner@bcps.org](mailto:cturner@bcps.org), American Government – [dprobst@bcps.org](mailto:dprobst@bcps.org), Science – [tcohee@bcps.org](mailto:tcohee@bcps.org), and Math – [mfastuca@bcps.org](mailto:mfastuca@bcps.org))

Questions about State Testing at Perry Hall High should be directed to Ms. Watkins at [kwatkins@bcps.org](mailto:kwatkins@bcps.org) or Mr. Allen at [lallen3@bcps.org](mailto:lallen3@bcps.org). By working #HallTogether, we can ensure our students receive supports needed to make it across the stage!