## MCPS Graduation Ninth Grade: 2015–2016

### The State of Maryland Authorizes One Diploma

For all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment of four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland assessments. Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8 to meet the enrollment requirement. All other requirements are summarized in the table below. Please consult either the online MCPS High School Course Bulletin at [http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) or your school counselor for further information.

### Course Credits

- **English**: 4 credits
- **Fine Arts**: 1 credit
  - Selected course in art, dance, drama/theater, and music satisfies this requirement (FA). Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.
- **Health Education**: 0.5 credit
- **Mathematics**: 4 credits
  - 1 full-year (A/B) algebra credit and 1 geometry credit required. Students who successfully complete a calculus course may be exempted from this 4-credit requirement.
  - **NEW STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER**: Students graduating in 2018 and later must be enrolled in a math course in each year of high school. This may result in students earning more than 4 credits in math for graduation.
- **Physical Education**: 1 credit
- **Science**: 3 credits
  - 1 biology credit, designated BC, and 1 physical science credit, designated PC, must be included. See Science Department offerings section of the course bulletin for more details.
- **Social Studies**: 3 credits
  - 1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit required.
- **Technology Education**: 1 credit
  - Designated TE. Advanced Technology (AT) courses do not satisfy the TE course requirement. Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.
- **Electives**: The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by one of the following three options:
  - **OPTION 1**: 2 credits in a world language OR 2 credits in American Sign Language AND 2.5 credits in elective courses
  - **OPTION 2**: 2 credits in advanced technology education (AT) AND 2.5 credits in elective courses
  - **OPTION 3**: 4 credits in a state-approved Program of Study AND 0.5 credit in elective courses

### Student Service Learning (SSL)

- **Student Service Learning (SSL)**: 75 service-learning hours

### Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

**High School Assessment (MCAP HSA) Requirements**

The MCAP HSA requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

- **Algebra 1**: Course credit earned in Algebra 1, AND
  - Take Algebra 1 PARCC or Algebra 1 HSA prior to 2016–2017, OR
  - Pass Algebra 1 PARCC
- **Biology/Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (HS-MISA)**: Course credit earned in Biology, AND
  - Pass Biology HSA prior to 2016–2017, OR
  - Take Biology HSA during 2016–2017, OR
  - Take the no-fault field test for HS-MISA in 2017–2018 or 2018–2019
- **English 10**: Course credit earned in English 10 or Equivalent, or ESOL 3 or higher, AND
  - Pass English Language Arts/Literacy 10 PARCC
- **Government**: Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government, AND
  - Pass Government HSA

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1. **Substitute Test**—Students earning qualifying scores on substitute tests (AP/IB) will meet the MCAP HSA requirement in that content area.
2. **Transfer Credit**—Students transferring from outside MD public schools may be eligible to meet some MCAP HSA content-area requirements with transfer credit.
3. **Combined Test Score Options** are available for the HSAs and for the PARCC assessments.
4. **Bridge Plan**—An alternative means of meeting the MCAP HSA graduation requirement. With the Bridge Plan, students demonstrate content mastery by completing projects when they have difficulty passing the traditional test.