

# Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Testing in High School

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Maryland in 2013 implemented new, higher standards for student learning in all schools across the State. The Maryland College and Career Ready Standards are based on the Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states, and provide students with the relevant, real world knowledge and skills needed for success beyond high school. In order to measure student mastery of the new standards, Maryland will implement new statewide tests – the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. For the 2014-15 school year, Maryland's PARCC assessments will include Algebra I, Algebra II, and English 10. Geometry, English 9, and English 11 will come later.

## #1 The PARCC tests in English 10 and Algebra I have replaced the High School Assessments (HSAs) in English 10 and Algebra/Data Analysis.

Students taking English 10 and Algebra this year are taking the new PARCC exams in those tested areas. As in the past, all students still must pass the Government and Biology HSAs as a graduation requirement.

## #2 Students taking the PARCC assessments in English 10 and Algebra for the first time in 2014-15 and 2015-16 will not have to pass the test in order to graduate.

The Maryland State Board of Education in 2014 approved a transition plan for the new assessments, allowing students and teachers to become more knowledgeable in the rigorous standards before requiring student to pass the exams in order to receive a Maryland High School diploma. Students taking the PARCC-aligned assessments in Algebra I and English 10 must still pass the course as part of those graduation requirements.

## #3 Students who have taken the HSA-aligned Algebra and English 10 courses, but have not yet passed one or both of the HSA exams in those subjects, will have the opportunity to retake those HSA exams in 2014-15.

Because the HSA-aligned tests in Algebra and English 10 will end after the 2014-15 school year, students who have not passed will not need to retake in 2015-16 or complete a Bridge Plan in order to graduate, but they must still pass the course to receive a diploma.

## #4 The final administration of the Modified High School Assessments (Mod-HSAs) will be in the summer of 2015.

Students who were eligible for a Mod-HSA in Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, English 10, and/or Government will be allowed to retake the Mod-HSAs during the 2014-15 school year.

## #5 The Bridge Plan for Academic Validation will remain an option for students who take the PARCC assessments in Algebra I and English 10 for the first time in 2016-17 and beyond.

Passing the PARCC assessments will become a graduation requirement for students who take them for the first time in 2016-17. Students will be able to prove mastery of the subjects through the project-based assessments when passing the tests becomes a requirement. New Bridge Plan assessments, aligned to the PARCC tests, are currently in development.

*If you have additional questions about testing, ask your teacher, principal, or high school counselor.*

