



Academic Testing: A quick overview



In addition to passing classes and earning credits many tests are required for your child to earn his/her Maryland High School Diploma, this is just a quick summary of those tests and when most students take them.

Test Commonly Taken			
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Practice PSAT	PSAT	PSAT	SAT or ACT
AP (course related)	AP (course related)	Mock ACT	AP (course related)
MISA Life Science (LS)- Taken after biology typically in 9 th or 10 th grade	HSA- NSL Government,	AP (course related)	Accuplacer (MC Placement test)
MCAP- Algebra 1 (if not taken in middle school)	MISA Life Science (LS)- Taken after biology typically in 9 th or 10 th grade	SAT or ACT or Accuplacer (mandated by CCRC)	HSA or MISA if not taken earlier
MAP M and R (taken in fall and spring)	MCAP- Algebra 1 (if not taken in middle school)	HSA or MISA if not taken earlier	MCAP- if enrolled in Algebra 1 or English 10 or if they have not met the requirement.
	MCAP- English 10	MCAP- if enrolled in Algebra 1 or English 10 or if they have not met the requirement.	Biliteracy Test- if not already completed

Test Glossary	
Test	Description
AP Tests <i>Taken after completing AP course</i>	AP stands for Advanced Placement, and students are enrolled in a yearlong course, which culminates with an AP Exam. If students earn a 3 or higher on a 5 point scale they may get college credit for the course. Cost- Approximately \$101
Accuplacer <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	One of the most commonly used placement tests at 2-year schools like Montgomery College. Also, one of the assessments used for CCRC Cost- Free
ACT <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	One of two major college entrance exams. Students do not have to take both the SAT and the ACT they can chose one or the other, some students do chose to take both. Cost- Approximately \$60-70
Biliteracy <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	Students can earn the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma by either taking an AP language exam and scoring a 4 or higher or taking one of the Biliteracy tests Advant Stamp or World Speaks and passing. Cost- if test in grade 12 free, if testing 11 th grade approximately \$20
CCRCCA	<i>College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013-</i> which requires all public high school students to take a college and career readiness assessment in English and mathematics by the end of Grade 11. MCPS will use the SAT, ACT, and ACCUPLACER as the college and career readiness assessment under CCRCCA. Currently, more than 70 percent of our students take the SAT and/or ACT, and others take the ACCUPLACER by the end of Grade 11. It is required that all students at leas need to take one of the assessments by the end of 11 th grade. Financial assistance is offered by the companies that administer these tests. The ACCUPLACER is already administered at no cost to students in MCPS. Your student should work with his/her counselor to decide which test to take. In addition, your child's counselor can provide guidance about the process of obtaining a waiver for the cost of taking the SAT or ACT. Cost –see individual test mentioned for pricing



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<p>HSA <i>Course specific grades 9-12</i></p>	<p>Maryland High School Assessments, required for Graduation, currently students must participate to meet their graduation requirement. Passing requirements expected to take place for students enrolled in the course in school year 23-24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSL Government <p>Cost –Free</p>
<p>MAP M and R <i>Grade 9</i></p>	<p>Measures of Academic Progress in reading and math. Required by MCPS for all 9th graders. Students will take the test in the fall and spring.</p> <p>Cost- Free</p>
<p>MISA LS <i>Course specific grades 9-12</i></p>	<p>Maryland Integrated Science Assessment in Life Science is taken after students’ complete biology. This test is required for Graduation, currently students must participate to meet their graduation requirement. Passing requirements expected to take place for students enrolled in the course in school year 23-24.</p> <p>Cost –Free</p>
<p>MCAP <i>Course specific grades 9-12</i></p>	<p>Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Algebra 1 English (ELA) 10 These tests are required for Graduation, currently students must participate to meet their graduation requirement. Passing requirements expected to take place for students enrolled in the course in school year 23-24.</p> <p>Cost –Free</p>
<p>PSAT <i>Typically grades 10-11</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th a practice test to see where students fall academically, data can be used to assist with scheduling and making sure students are being appropriately challenged Cost-Free 10th Grade- the official test is given, MCPS uses the data to see where students fall academically, data can be used to assist with scheduling and making sure students are being appropriately challenged. MCPS pays for all 10th grade exams Cost-Free 11th Grade this test has two purposes: it serves as a practice test for the SAT, Wheaton uses the data to determine which test students are more successful with (SAT/ACT), and students can also qualify for National Merit scholarships through a national program. (Based on nationwide score distribution) Cost- \$19
<p>Progress Checks and Common Writing Tasks <i>All grades</i></p>	<p>Progress Checks are given in Math, English and ESOL classes quarterly, the schedule and type of exam varies by subject (see the MCPS website for specifics). Common Writing Tasks- are given in academic classes 2-4 times a school year. Exam specifics vary by subject (see the MCPS website for specifics.)</p> <p>Cost –Free</p>
<p>SAT <i>Typically grades 11-12</i></p>	<p>One of two major college entrance exams. Students do not have to take both the SAT and the ACT. They can choose one or the other, some students do choose to take both.</p> <p>Cost- Approximately \$50-60</p>
<p>TOEFL <i>Typically grades 11-12</i></p>	<p>The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level. And it evaluates how well you combine your reading, listening, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks. (It is only for international students or students who have lived in the US for less than 5 years.)</p> <p>Cost- \$200-225</p>
<p>WIDA- Access for ELLs <i>All EML students</i></p>	<p>Students in the ELD program will take the Access for Ells to measure their English Language Proficiency. This is also the test that students must “pass” in order to exit from ELD services.</p> <p>Cost –Free</p>



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