



## Information on Assessment Requirements for Graduation 2014-2015

This information is intended to clarify requirements as Maryland transitions to the new PARCC assessments. These guidelines are intended for students graduating in 2014-2015 and beyond.

**It is important to note that there is NO change in the requirements for the Government HSA and the Biology HSA.**

Figure 1.1 Students who were enrolled in HSA-aligned courses (Government and Biology) during 2014-2015

### **Biology**

- Required to pass the course AND pass the HSA, achieve an approved combined score, or satisfy the requirement via the Bridge Plan

### **Government**

- Required to pass the course AND pass the HSA, achieve an approved combined score, or satisfy the requirement via the Bridge Plan\*

### **Combined Score:**

- Approved combined scores as established by the Department (see the document, *Assessment Graduation Requirements for Students Graduating During the Upcoming 2015-2016 School Year or in Summer 2016*)
- Students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2013-2014 school-year or in a prior year and who took the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA and the English 10 HSA, may choose to apply the scores on these HSAs toward an approved combined score.
- No change for Bridge Plan criteria; please refer to the revised 2015 Bridge Plan Manual

\*Note: Students in the graduating classes of 2015 or 2016 are *not* required to pass the Government HSA, but may use the score toward a combined score option.

Figure 1.2 Students who were enrolled in PARCC-aligned courses (Algebra I and English 10) during 2014-2015

### **Algebra I – first time Algebra I students**

- Required to pass the course AND participate in the PARCC testing
- No re-testing required

### **English 10 – first time English 10 students**

- Required to pass the course AND participate in the PARCC testing
- No re-testing required

Students who took Algebra I for the first time and passed the course, regardless of their grade-level designation, must have participated in the PARCC Algebra I testing. Their participation in the PARCC Algebra I test meets the graduation assessment requirement for Algebra I.

Students who took English 10 for the first time and passed the course must have participated in the PARCC English 10 test. Their participation meets the graduation assessment requirement for English 10.

**Students who are re-taking the HSA Algebra/Data Analysis and/or HSA English 10 Assessment**

Students who passed Algebra, but failed the HSA/Data Analysis test prior to 2014-2015 school-year, were required to retake the HSA through 2014-2015 school-year. If they still did not pass the assessment by achieving the passing score or through a combined score, no further testing is required to meet their mathematics assessment requirement for graduation.

Students who passed English 10, but failed the HSA English 10 test prior to 2014-2015 school-year, were required to retake the HSA through 2014-2015 school-year. If they still had not passed the assessment by achieving the passing score or through a combined score, no further testing is required to meet their English assessment requirement for graduation.

Both the HSA (and Mod HSA) for Algebra/Data Analysis and the HSA (and Mod HSA) for English 10 will no longer be available after August 2015. Mod-HSA has been eliminated entirely; there is no longer a modified assessment for Algebra/Data Analysis, English 10, Government, or Biology.

**Bridge Validation Project Exemptions for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016**

Prior to the 2016-2017, if a student has taken an HSA-aligned Algebra/Data-Analysis or PARCC-aligned Algebra I course and has passed the course but did not achieve an appropriate cut score on the assessment aligned to the course, that student is exempt from completing a Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, but may choose to use the Algebra/Data-Analysis HSA score as a combined score option. See the revised 2015 Bridge Plan Manual for further information on the combined score options.

Prior to the 2016-2017, if a student has taken an HSA-aligned English 10 or PARCC English 10-aligned course, and has passed the course but did not achieve an appropriate cut score on the assessment aligned to the course, that student is exempt from completing a Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, but may choose to use the English 10 HSA score as a combined score option. See the revised 2015 Bridge Plan Manual for further information on the combined score options.