



## Information on Assessment Requirements for Graduation 2015-2016

This information is intended to clarify requirements as Maryland transitions to the new PARCC assessments. These guidelines are intended for students graduating in 2016 and beyond.

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

Figure 2.1 Students who are enrolled in HSA-aligned courses (Government and Biology) during 2015-2016

### **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 acceptable 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 class of 2016 are *not* required to pass the Government HSA, but may use the score toward a combined score option.

Figure 2.2 Students who are enrolled in PARCC-aligned courses (Algebra I and English 10) during 2015-2016

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

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

### **English 10 or PARCC-aligned course – first time English 10 students**

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

Students who are taking Algebra I for the first time and pass the course, regardless of their grade-level designation, must participate in the PARCC Algebra I testing. Their participation in the PARCC Algebra I test meets the graduation requirement for Algebra I.

Students who are taking English 10 or a PARCC-aligned course for the first time and pass the course must participate in the PARCC English 10 test. Their participation meets the graduation requirement for English 10.

## **Transition Course Information**

Even though the requirement is participation only for Algebra I and English 10, it is important to understand that student performance on the PARCC Algebra I and PARCC English 10 will be good indicators for how students will perform on the college placement assessments that will inform the need for transition courses in the future.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013

### **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.