

# ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

## Class of 2024

### FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2020–2021 MCPS Graduation Requirements at a Glance

**THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZES 1 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 the online MCPS Course Bulletin for 2020–2021 at [coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools](http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools) or your school counselor for further information.

COURSE CREDITS			
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4 credits</b>		
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	<b>1 credit</b> designated (FA). Courses in art, dance, drama/theater, and music that satisfy the FA requirement are designated in the course bulletin.		
<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b>		
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4 credits</b> , including 1 with instruction in algebra aligned with the Maryland High School Assessment for algebra or 1 or more credits in subsequent mathematics courses for which algebra I is a prerequisite, and 1 with instruction in geometry aligned with the content standards for geometry. <b>STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER:</b> 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.		
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1 credit</b>		
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) credits</b> , including 1 life science credit (BC) and 1 physical science credit (PC). Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin.		
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>3 credits</b> , 1 U.S. History credit; 1 World History credit; and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit required.		
<b>TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (TE)</b>	<b>1 credit</b> designated TE. Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin. Advanced Technology (AT) courses do not satisfy the TE course requirement.		
<b>ELECTIVES</b> The additional credits required for graduation may be fulfilled by 1 of the following three options	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>OPTION 2</b>	<b>OPTION 3</b>
	<b>2 credits</b> in a world language, which may include American Sign Language <b>AND 2.5 credits</b> in elective courses	<b>2 credits</b> in Advanced Technology Education <b>AND 2.5 credits</b> in elective courses TE courses do not count as AT course credit.	Complete a state-approved program of study (POS) <b>AND a minimum of 0.5 credit</b> in elective courses or more depending on POS

### STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)

<b>STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)</b>	75 service-learning hours The SSL requirement is prorated for students enrolling in MCPS for the first time after Grade 6.
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### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP) HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT (HSA) REQUIREMENTS<sup>1,2,3</sup>

These assessment requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

<b>ALGEBRA 1</b>	Course credit earned in Algebra 1 <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Algebra 1 assessment prior to 2019–2020, <b>OR</b></li> <li>Take the Algebra 1 assessment, <b>OR</b></li> <li>If the Algebra 1 course was passed during 2019–2020, a COVID waiver was awarded to meet the assessment requirement. No additional test participation is required.</li> </ul>
<b>ENGLISH 10</b>	Course credit earned in English 10 or equivalent, or English 10 for ELs <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment</li> </ul>
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government or equivalent <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the Government assessment, <b>OR</b></li> <li>If the National, State, and Local Government course was passed in 2020–2021, a COVID waiver was awarded to meet the assessment requirement. No additional test participation is required.</li> </ul>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Substitute Test: Students earning qualifying scores on substitute tests (AP/IB) will meet the MCAP HSA requirement in that content area.

<sup>2</sup> Transfer Credit: Students transferring from outside Maryland public schools may be eligible to meet some MCAP HSA content-area requirements with transfer credit.

<sup>3</sup> COVID waivers awarded in 2019–2020 or 2020–2021.