



High School

Graduation Requirements *Classes of 2018 through 2020*

Effective with the Graduating Classes of 2018 through 2020 (entering freshman of Fall 2014 through Fall 2016), graduation requirements to earn a Maryland High School diploma are as follows.

Note updates effective with the class of 2019 (entering freshmen of Fall 2015).

See the Required Subject Area Descriptions pages for further descriptions of requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL

SUBJECT AREA	SPECIFIC CREDIT REQUIREMENTS	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS
English	4 credits	Students must satisfy one of the following: (a) Meet the requirements as established by MSDE on the Maryland assessments for Algebra 1, Biology, English 10, and Government. (b) Achieve a combined score(s) as established by MSDE on the Maryland assessments; (c) Achieve a score as established by MSDE approved substitute assessments for Algebra, Biology, English, and Government, aligned with the Maryland assessments such as Advanced Placement examinations, SAT I, SAT II, ACT, and International Baccalaureate examinations; (d) In school years 2016—2017 and beyond, if a student is unable to meet the above requirements, then they must satisfactorily complete the requirements of the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, or (e) Prior to the 2016—2017 school year, if a student has taken an HSA-aligned or PARCC-aligned Algebra I and/or English 10 course and has passed the course(s) but failed the assessment aligned with the course(s) that student is exempt from completing a Bridge Plan for Academic Validation. See Assessment Requirements pages for additional information and specific information on government.
Mathematics	3 credits ✓ 1 in Algebra 1 ✓ 1 in Geometry ✓ 1 additional mathematics credit ✓ Enrollment in a math course each year in high school	
Science	3 credits ✓ 1 in Biology ✓ 2 additional credits that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, or physical science	
Social Studies	3 credits ✓ 1 in U.S. History II ✓ 1 in Local, State, and National Government ✓ 1 in World History	

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Fine Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	0.5 credit ✓ Personal Fitness
Health Education	0.5 credit ✓ Health Issues
Technology Education	1 credit
Completer** and Electives	<p>2 credits of either World Language or American Sign Language (both credits must be in the same language per local requirements) and any remaining credits in electives</p> <p>Effective with the class of 2019 (entering freshmen of Fall 2015), PGCPSS no longer requires two years of the same world language for students beginning a Level 1 course in high school. MSDE requires that American Sign Language be taken in sequential order to meet graduation requirements. OR</p> <p>2 credit s of Advanced Technology Education and any remaining credits in electives OR</p> <p>Complete (4–9 credits) a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)-approved sequence of courses and any remaining credits in electives</p>

Prerequisites: Enrollment in a course may be allowed only if a previous course has been completed. See the High School Courses and Programs of Study publication which describes the content of each course offered in Prince George’s County Public Schools and course prerequisites.*

Credits: Twenty-one (21) credits are required. Per COMAR 13A.03.02.01C, Effective with the Class of 2019 (entering freshmen of Fall 2015), students must be enrolled in a minimum of four courses each semester after grade 11. The minimum of four courses per semester must include at least one high school course; remaining courses may include Dual Enrollment. All MSDE graduation requirements must be satisfied.

Enrollment: The student shall satisfactorily complete four years of approved study beyond the 8th grade unless on an approved option.

Student Service-Learning: The student shall complete a locally-developed, state-approved program that includes service-learning infusion in designated courses, preparation, reflection, and a specified number of hours of independent service.



High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities

- All students with disabilities must meet minimum credit requirements before graduating and receiving a high school diploma.
- All students with disabilities must meet current testing requirements in order to earn a high school diploma.
- All students with disabilities must meet the Student Service-Learning requirement in order to earn a high school diploma. Refer to Administrative Procedure 6151 Student Service-Learning Graduation Guidelines for additional information.

A Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion can be awarded to students with disabilities who cannot meet the requirements for a diploma, but who meet one of the following standards:

1. The student is enrolled in an education program for at least 4 years beyond Grade 8 or its age equivalent, and is determined by his/her IEP team, with the agreement of the student and the parents of the student, to have developed appropriate skills for the individual to enter the world of work, act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life, with the world of work including but not limited to gainful employment, post-secondary education and training, supported employment, and other services that are integrated in the community, or
2. The student has been enrolled in an education program for 4 years beyond Grade 8 or its age equivalent and will have reached age 21 by the end of the student's current school year.

The Maryland Summary of Performance that describes the student's skills shall accompany the Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion.

The final decision to award a student with disabilities a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion will not be made until after the beginning of the student's last year in high school.

A student with significant cognitive disability may not meet high school graduation requirements, if a student participates in an Alternative Assessment based on Alternative Academic Achievement Standards (AA-AAAS) and continues to receive instruction based on Alternative Academic Achievement Standards through high school.

For additional information see COMAR Diplomas and Certificates at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.03.02.09.htm>.