



## DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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May 11, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has created difficult learning conditions across Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). With the additional stress placed on personal and family lives, many students have found it challenging to perform at their highest level. As a school system, we have made many shifts in instruction and implemented various initiatives to meet the diverse needs of students in the distance learning environment. However, an analysis of student data and engagement indicates the need for an additional "safety net."

Based on their cumulative grade, your child is eligible to take a Demonstration of Course Mastery Assessment (DCMA). This opportunity allows students who pass an assessment to add additional points to their final course grade. Parents and guardians are required to opt-in and must register their child to participate.

The DCMA measures proficiency, knowledge and skills in select English and Math courses required for graduation. The assessment will be open to students in high school credit-bearing courses who currently have a cumulative third-quarter grade average between 50 to 59 percent. Middle school students in high school credit bearing math courses who currently have between a 50-59 percent are also eligible to take the assessment. It will be essential for students to remain on track during the fourth quarter. Students are required to pass the DCMA earning a C or higher to show course proficiency. A passing score on this cumulative assessment will result in 10 percentage points added toward the student's overall final grade.

On **Monday, May 17, 2021**, PGCPS will host an informational meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for parents to discuss this option. We strongly encourage you to attend. You can access the meeting online at: <http://bit.ly/PGCPSCourseMastery>.

After the informational meeting, if you believe your child can demonstrate mastery in the identified courses, you may register them for participation at the links below:

- Middle School Registration: <http://bit.ly/PGCPSMasteryMiddle>
- High School Registration: <http://bit.ly/PGCPSMastery>

Each school will create a schedule to administer these assessments face to face within their buildings. All students will be tested between Monday, May 24 and Thursday, June 10, 2021. Parents must provide transportation for students to participate in the scheduled testing sessions. All students taking the test must bring their fully charged laptop and be on time.

If a DCMA is not available for a particular course, or where parents do not feel their child can demonstrate mastery in the identified course(s), students will be invited to participate in summer school or a credit recovery program as an alternative. If you have any questions, please contact your School Counseling Office.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Strader, Ed.D.  
Chief Accountability Officer

Sincerely,

Judith J. White, Ed.D.  
Chief Academic Officer