

Graduation Requirements

April 2020

- ***Will credit graduation requirements be waived if we are unable to open school again?***

No, the State requirement for 21 credits to graduate remains. LSSs are strongly encouraged to provide alternative ways for students to receive standards-aligned instruction in all subjects including fine arts, health education, physical education, and world languages; MSDE will facilitate collaboration with LSSs and provide technical assistance as needed.

Students are required per COMAR to meet the 21 credit requirements. Local school systems have other provisions available for students to earn credit ([COMAR 13A.03.02.04](#)), including, but not limited to, online courses and credit through examination. These options may be implemented immediately by local school systems to support students on track to graduate this year.

COMAR 13A.03.02.01 allows for local superintendents to waive additional graduation requirements required in their school system beyond the 21 credits required by the State.

The waiver for assessment graduation requirements for Algebra I, English 10, HS MISA, and Government was approved by the State Board of Education on April 14, 2020, for seniors only. Recommendations regarding assessment requirements for graduation for classes other than seniors are under discussion.

- ***Will assessment graduation requirements be waived?***

On March 25, 2020, Maryland received approval on a waiver for accountability. Through the waiver, Maryland will not administer the statewide assessments to all students in the 2019-2020 school year, or make annual accountability determinations, identify schools for support and improvement, or provide data on its State and local report cards for assessment and accountability information based on the 2019-2020 data.

For the graduating Class of 2020, the request for the waiver for assessment graduation requirements for Algebra I, English 10, HS MISA, and Government was approved by the State Board of Education on April 14, 2020.

LSS Superintendents can waive the requirements under [COMAR 13A.03.02.09-1.E](#), if the student meets specific criteria.

- ***Will service learning graduation requirements be waived?***

At the April 14, 2020, State Board meeting, the State Board approved the request to waive the Student Service requirement for seniors who have not met the requirement. Additionally, all other middle and high school students who are enrolled in a course which has Service Learning embedded in the course would receive credit for the Service Learning for that course; all students who earned hours of Service Learning prior to March 13, 2020, would be awarded credit for Service Learning for the 2019-2020 school year.

