



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS*
DATE: October 27, 2020
SUBJECT: Waiver Request for Juniors in the 2020-2021 School Year

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memo is to clarify graduation requirements for any junior in the 2020-2021 school year who needs to take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment in Algebra I and/or English 10 in the 2020-2021 school year.

BACKGROUND:

Given that the 2020-2021 school year is the first year of administration of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) and the assessments must be peer reviewed, the results of the administration to students will not be available until November/December 2021. Present juniors who will be graduating seniors in the 2021-2022 school year and who may not pass the assessment will not have the necessary time to schedule assistance courses, begin/complete the Bridge, and retake that assessment in order to ensure the opportunity for graduation.

ACTION:

Therefore, the Maryland State Department of Education is requesting a waiver from COMAR 13A.03.02.06 *Maryland High School Assessments* and 13A.03.02.09 *Diplomas and Certificates* for the 2020-2021 school year juniors who need to take the Algebra I and/or English 10 assessment in the 2020-2021 school year from passing the assessments. The request includes a waiver for juniors in the 2020-2021 school year from completing the Bridge Plan for Algebra I and/or English 10. These students must still pass the Algebra I and English 10 courses and take the Algebra I and English 10 MCAP assessments as a requirement for graduation.