



Frequently Asked Questions End of Course Exams

2022-2023, 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Version 2022.1 | July 2022

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
marylandpublicschools.org



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

Clarence C. Crawford
President, Maryland State Board of Education

Larry Hogan
Governor

Dr. Deann Collins
Deputy Superintendent,
Division of Teaching and Learning

Chandra Haislet
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) was produced by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting. The intended audiences for the manual are Local Education Agency (LEA) superintendents, Local Accountability Coordinators (LAC), and community stakeholders.

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For inquiries related to Department policy, please contact: Equity Assurance and Compliance Office, Office of the Deputy State Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 W. Baltimore Street - 6th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595, 410-767-0426 - voice, 410-767-0431 - fax, 410-333-6442 - TTY/TDD.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Document Control	2
Document Information	2
Document History	2
Contact Information	2
Relevant State and Federal Requirements	2
State Law	2
Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)	2
Federal Law	2
Purpose	3
Frequently Asked Questions about End of Course Exams	4
What is the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)?	4
What is an MCAP End of Course (EOC) Assessment?	4
What is an MCAP End of Course (EOC) Exam?	4
What is the difference between the MCAP End of Course (EOC) Exam and the previous High School Assessments (HSA)?	4
Do students need to complete a bridge project if they do not pass the End of Course (EOC) Exam?	4
What percentage of the final course grade is the End of Course (EOC) Exam?	5
Are end of grade assessments also subject to the 20 percent requirement?	5
When was the End of Course (EOC) Exam established?	5
When does the End of Course (EOC) Exam go into effect for students?	5
Which students will be impacted by End of Course (EOC) Exams when they go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year?	5
How will students meet graduation assessment requirements for the 2022-2023 school year?	5
How will students meet graduation assessment requirements beginning in the 2023-2024 school year?	5
What courses have an End of Course (EOC) Exam requirement?	6
Are there accommodated versions of the End of Course (EOC) Exams?	6

Document Control

Document Information

Title:	EOC Frequently Asked Questions
Security Level:	Unclassified
Filename:	EOC FAQ V1

Document History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1	7/05/2022	

Contact Information

	Primary Contact Information		Secondary Contact Information
Name:	Chandra Haislet	Name:	Brianna Creed
Title:	Assistant Superintendent Office of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting	Title:	Education Program Specialist Office of Assessment, Accountability, and Performance Reporting
Phone:	410-767-0025	Phone:	410-767-5171
Email:	chandra.haislet@maryland.gov	Email:	brianna.creed@maryland.gov

Relevant State and Federal Requirements

State Law

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)

13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for High Schools in Maryland

Federal Law

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 34 CFR § 200.1-200.79 (2015)

Purpose

The Maryland High School Graduation Task Force was convened in 2018 at the request of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools. The Task Force was asked to focus on three areas: credit and program requirements (number of credits, subject areas, and other requirements), assessments, and options for awarding high school diplomas.

For the assessments, the recommendation by the Task Force was to delink the assessments at the high school level because research shows that high stakes exit exams disproportionately and negatively impact students of color and economically disadvantaged students, reducing their likelihood of graduation from high school. Research also shows that a student's course grade is a stronger predictor of college and career success than standardized assessments and suggests that switching to an End-of-Course Exam model does improve achievement for all students. (Hanushek, E., & Raymond, M., 2004; Rockoff, J., & Turner, L., 2008).

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document provides answers to questions related to the implementation of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) End of Course (EOC) Exams for high school. This document will be updated regularly and the current version available on the [Maryland public school website](#).

Frequently Asked Questions about End of Course Exams

What is the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)?

The MCAP encompasses all state and federally mandated assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, English Language Proficiency and Kindergarten Readiness. The MCAP provides information to educators, families and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland state content standards. Through a strong assessment system, stakeholders gain an understanding of how schools are performing and where assistance can be directed to support student growth and achievement.

What is an MCAP End of Course (EOC) Assessment?

An EOC assessment is content specific and required to be taken at the conclusion of a high school course. In Maryland the following state administered high school EOC assessments are required for graduation including Algebra, English, Government and the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (LS-MISA).

What is an MCAP End of Course (EOC) Exam?

An EOC Exam is a state administered high school assessment, incorporated into local courses as a final exam with a percentage counting towards the students' final course grade. This stands in contrast to an EOC assessment where the student must earn a passing score on the assessment to meet a graduation requirement.

What is the difference between the MCAP End of Course (EOC) Exam and the previous High School Assessments (HSA)?

The HSA assessments were a series of high school assessments that a student had to pass to graduate from high school. A student's performance on the assessment had no impact on the student's final grade in a course or in earning any related course credits.

The MCAP EOC Exam will be incorporated into the student's final course grade. There is no requirement for the student to pass the EOC Exam as a separate graduation requirement.

Do students need to complete a bridge project if they do not pass the End of Course (EOC) Exam?

No, there are no bridge project options for students. Students do not need to pass the EOC Exam to graduate; however, students must successfully earn the respective course credits.

What percentage of the final course grade is the End of Course (EOC) Exam?

The EOC Exam will comprise 20 percent of the student's grade in the relevant course. (Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.03.02.06)

Are end of grade assessments also subject to the 20 percent requirement?

No, end of grade assessments measure grade level content and not high school subject areas which are assessed by end of course assessments. End of grade assessments are offered annually in grades 3 through 8 for mathematics and English language arts, grade 5 and 8 for science, and grade 8 for social studies.

When was the End of Course (EOC) Exam established?

The EOC Exam was adopted by the State Board on May 25, 2021. The EOC adoption superseded the former requirement in Maryland for students to pass high school assessments.

When does the End of Course (EOC) Exam go into effect for students?

The Maryland State Board approved a waiver for the 2022-2023 school year for the EOC Exam requirement to be included at 20 percent of the final course grade (COMAR 13A.03.02.06.H). No other graduation requirements were waived. The EOC Exam requirement will begin in the 2023-2024 school year.

Which students will be impacted by End of Course (EOC) Exams when they go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year?

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, all first-time 9th grade students will have the EOC Exam incorporated into the student's final course grade as required by 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for High Schools in Maryland.

How will students meet graduation assessment requirements for the 2022-2023 school year?

For the 2022-2023 school year, students will meet the graduation assessment requirement by taking the requisite MCAP assessment after earning course credit for Algebra, English, Science, and Government.

How will students meet graduation assessment requirements beginning in the 2023-2024 school year?

Students are still required to meet the graduation assessment requirement by taking the requisite MCAP assessment after earning course credit for Algebra, English, Science, and Government. In

addition, the MCAP assessment taken in the 2023-2024 school year will also be an EOC Exam counting for 20 percent of the final course grade.

What courses have an End of Course (EOC) Exam requirement?

The current COMAR 13A.03.02.06 identifies the following courses as having an EOC Exam requirement: Algebra, English, Science, and Government. On June 28, 2022 the State Board approved a waiver from the EOC requirement from the EOC Exam requirement for all courses in the 2022-2023 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year, the MSDE is working to support the EOC Exams for LS-MISA and Government. Future revisions to COMAR in support of the EOC Exam implementation are forthcoming.

Are there accommodated versions of the End of Course (EOC) Exams?

Yes, the exams are available in braille, American Sign Language, and large print. As always, testing accommodations found in a student's Individualized Education Program, 504 Plan, and/or English learner plan must be followed. The Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, & Accommodations Policy Manual has more details about specific accommodations found on the MCAP assessments.