

Webinar FAQs

1. WHAT ARE THE MARYLAND CERTIFICATE OF PROGRAM COMPLETION (MCOPC) ENDORSEMENTS?

The Endorsements are additional designations on a student's MCOPC that identify achievement in Postsecondary Education, Work Readiness and Career, and Community and Citizenship. Each Endorsement is composed of at least six standards, which are all aligned to Common Core, Maryland State, or Dynamic Learning Maps standards. Each Standard is defined and has corresponding competencies that describe what attainment of a standard looks like. By school year 2026-2027, all students enrolled in the Alternate Framework will be considered Endorsement participants unless the family has opted out in writing. A student may work towards and earn one, two, or all three Endorsements.

2. HOW ARE MCOPC ENDORSEMENTS EARNED?

The MCoPC Endorsements are earned through in-person, holistic observations, and IEP team feedback. The IEP Team, including the student and their family, will identify which Endorsement(s) the student will work towards. Attainment will be based on competency mastery identified for each Endorsement (see below). The Attainment Rubric can help the team identify a student's progress towards and achievement of the Endorsements. Specific competencies in each standard will be selected and progress will be monitored. Student observations will be conducted by staff familiar with the student and trained in the Attainment Rubric and Observation Form (Observation Form to be released in August 2024). To achieve an Endorsement, students must receive a rubric score of two or three to demonstrate mastery:

Postsecondary Education Endorsement	Career and Work Readiness Endorsement	Community and Citizenship Endorsement
70% mastery of all competencies and	60% mastery of all competencies and	50% mastery of all competencies and
At least 3 competencies mastered in each Standard Area	At least 2 competencies mastered in each Standard Area	At least 1 competency mastered in each Standard Area

Once the student has achieved the requirements aligned to an MCoPC Endorsement, that Endorsement can be awarded. If a student achieves a competency in one area that aligns with a competency in another Endorsement area, attainment can be noted for both. Many Endorsement standards have more than three aligned competencies. If a student is not making progress towards a competency, an IEP team should consider if another competency is more appropriate. It is possible to achieve a standard within an Endorsement through multiple competency combinations. Per the chart above, a student does not need to master all competencies to be awarded an MCoPC Endorsement.

3. HOW DO STUDENTS/PARENTS SELECT WHICH MCOPC ENDORSEMENT TO PURSUE?

The school IEP Team, including the student and family, will identify which Endorsement(s) the student will work towards attaining and identify which standard competencies the student will master. Effective in the 2026-2027 school year, parents will be provided with a copy of a completed Attainment Rubric to review prior to the student’s annual IEP meeting to allow for input on the selection of Endorsement(s), standards, and competencies. For students in their last year of school in the 25-26 school year, a completed copy of the Attainment Rubric will be provided to families prior to the student’s annual review or exit meeting.

4. WHO ARE THE TARGETED STUDENTS FOR SY2024-25?

All students participating in the Alternate Framework exiting at the end of the 2024-25 school year will be considered MCOPC Endorsement participants unless the parent/family has opted out in writing.

5. WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED TO TEACHERS?

Practitioners will be supported through a Professional Learning series, Technical Assistance sessions, and open office hours. In addition, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Performance Support and Technical Assistance (PSTA) branch will provide targeted coaching on the rubric-based observations of cohort students. Specific dates and times will be distributed with the MCOPC Endorsement presentation materials.

6. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT IMPLEMENTATION?

MSDE has implemented a phased rollout for the MCOPC Endorsements.

2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
<p>Students in their final year of school being assessed according to the Alternate Academic Achievement Standards will have the opportunity to earn Endorsement(s) through an observation process.</p>	<p>For all students being assessed according to the Alternate Academic Achievement Standards, starting at age 14, the student’s annual review meeting will include a discussion of the student’s progress towards attainment of Endorsements. *</p> <p>Starting in October 2025, rubric based observations for students in their final year of school will be conducted prior to the student’s annual IEP meeting and distributed to parents and students as part of the student’s pre-meeting documentation.</p>	<p>The Attainment Rubric and draft competency scores will be a required part of pre-meeting documentation for all transition aged students participating in the Alternate Framework. Based on an IEP Team discussion, students may be awarded credit for mastery of competencies using multiple assessments documented in the student’s Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP). Competencies will directly inform educational programs (IEP goals, objectives, and Transition Activities) and serve as an accounting of what the student has accomplished.</p>

*This discussion can focus on introducing parents to the concept of Endorsement and reviewing student strengths and areas of need as they align to the standards and competencies. For SY 25-26

only, unless a student is in their final year of school, a rubric based observation is not a required part of the pre-meeting documentation.

7. WHERE CAN I SUBMIT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MCOPC ENDORSEMENTS?

Please use the following link to submit outstanding questions:

<https://forms.office.com/r/t3tFkk2DWk>