



Elimination of Government High School Assessment

1. *Has the administration of the Government High School Assessment (HSA) been eliminated?*

Yes. The last administration of the Government HSA will be May 2011.

2. *Would passing the Government HSA be required for a senior graduating in June 2011?*

Yes. Students who entered grade 9 in the 2005-2006 school year and later are required to take and pass the Government HSA or use the combined score or Bridge Plan options to meet the graduation requirement. Due to the elimination of the Government HSA, students graduating in June 2011 will be the last class required to meet the Government HSA requirement, regardless of the year they entered grade 9.

3. *Is the Government HSA required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB)?*

No. No Child Left Behind requires that each state administer and report results for high school tests in reading (English), mathematics and science. The English and Algebra high school assessments are used for accountability purposes, determining whether schools and school systems have met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. NCLB requires Maryland to administer the science (Biology) test and to report the results, but science is not included in the calculation for AYP.

4. *Should students who will not graduate until 2012 and beyond still take the Government course?*

Yes. One credit in a local, state and national government course continues to be a graduation requirement. Instruction aligned with the state curriculum in this required course will continue.

5. *Should students who will not graduate until 2012 and beyond who have previously failed the Government HSA or who are presently enrolled in the Government course take the Government HSA in May 2011?*

It is recommended that students who will graduate in 2012 and beyond and who were scheduled to take the Government HSA in May 2011 take the assessment as planned.

6. *Will a student who is scheduled to graduate in 2012 or beyond be able to use the score on the Government HSA in the combined score option?*

Yes. Students who have taken or will have taken all four (4) assessments may continue to use the

combined score option of 1602. Students may use the Government HSA score to meet the 1602 combined score for four (4) assessments to meet their graduation requirement. Some students have a stronger score on the Government HSA test than on the other assessments. These students could benefit by using their Government score to help reach the 1602. The Government Bridge Plan option will not be available to these students after the 2010-2011 school year. See questions 7 and 8 for further options.

7. *What is the combined score option for students taking the three assessments: English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology?*

The combined score for the remaining three assessments: Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, and English is 1208.

8. *What are the combined scores for four assessments? Three assessments?*

Students who have already taken the Government HSA could meet the graduation requirement by reaching a combined score of 1602 on the four (4) HSAs or reaching a combined total of 1208 on the three (3) HSAs, which would include English, Algebra/Data Analysis and Biology.

# of Assessments	HSA Subjects	Combined Score
4	English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, Government	1602
3	English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology	1208

9. *How would students scheduled to graduate in June 2011 but who do not graduate because they do not meet the Government HSA requirement meet that requirement?*

Students who do not meet graduation requirements in 2011 and therefore are receiving their diploma in 2012 and beyond do not have to pass the Government HSA to graduate.

Any student who is working to earn a diploma in 2011 must pass the Government HSA, complete the necessary Bridge Plan project(s), or meet the combined score option of 1602.

10. *Will the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) be revised to reflect elimination of the Government HSA?*

Yes. As necessary, references to Government HSA in COMAR will be submitted to the State Board of Education for revision.



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