



MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a diploma, a student shall be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of **21** credits that include the following:

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Specific Credit Requirements</i>	<i>High School Assessments</i>
English	4 credits	<p>Students who entered grade 9 in the 2005-06 school year and later are required to <u>take</u> and <u>pass</u> the Maryland High School Assessments.</p> <p>Students who entered grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year and earlier are required to take the assessments but are not required to pass them.</p>
Mathematics	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in algebra/data analysis • 1 in geometry • 1 other 	
Science	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in biology • 2 that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science 	
Social Studies	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in U.S. history • 1 in world history • 1 in local, state, national, government 	
Fine Arts	1 credit	
Physical Education	½ credit	
Health	½ credit	
Technology Education	1 credit	
Other	2 credits of foreign language or 2 credits in American Sign Language* or 2 credits of advanced technology ed. and 3 credits in electives <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> 4 credits by successfully completing a State-approved career & technology program and 1 credit in an elective <small>*American Sign Language is an option beginning with students who graduate in 2008 and beyond.</small>	
Students must also meet attendance, service-learning, and local school system		

requirements.

HSA Testing Alternative: Bridge Plan

MSDE recognizes that some students will struggle on the HSAs, even after they take the tests several times and take advantage of academic remediation. The Bridge Plan for Academic Validation will provide another way for students to meet the HSA graduation requirement and earn a high school diploma, while meeting the same standards as those students passing the HSAs.

The Bridge Plan is for students failing to meet the passing score on any one HSA at least twice. Eligible students would have to meet additional local and state criteria such as minimum GPA, satisfactory attendance, passing grades in all HSA subjects, and participation in academic remediation. Students meeting the eligibility criteria would be permitted to complete an Academic Validation project that demonstrates the content and skills of each HSA they failed to pass.

Students with a combined score of 1602 will receive a passing score for the H S A.