

## STATE ASSESSMENTS

### ASSESSING COMPREHENSION AND COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH STATE-TO-STATE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ACCESS FOR ELLS)

When: January - February

Who: Students in grades Kindergarten-12

Description: ACCESS is an English language proficiency assessment given to those students in kindergarten through 12th grade who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs).

### KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT (KRA)

When: September

Who: Kindergarten Students (Random Sampling)

Description: The KRA is an assessment that combines age-appropriate, standardized performance tasks that measure specific skills, as well as, focused observations of children's work and play to determine what each student knows and is able to do when entering kindergarten. The assessment measures readiness in four developmental domains. These domains are social foundations, physical well-being and motor development, language and literacy, and mathematics. The KRA provides a snapshot of kindergarten readiness levels, making it possible to confidently determine if entering students have the skills and behaviors needed to succeed in kindergarten. It also highlights what early childhood educators, families, and communities can do to improve children's readiness.

### MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT FOR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (HSA)

When: January, May, and June

Who: High school students upon completion of high school American Government courses

Description: HSA is an end-of-course test that measures progress toward Maryland's High School Core Learning Goals (CLGs) in American Government. All students enrolled in the American Government course are required to take the HSA upon completion of the course. All students are required to take and pass the HSA to receive a Maryland High School Diploma, including students in special education, English language learners (ELLs), and students with 504 plans.

### MARYLAND INTEGRATED SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (MISA)

When: March

Who: Students in grades 5, 8, and high school

Description: The MISA measures student achievement on the Maryland State Science Standards (MSS) in grade 5 (testing content from grades 3, 4, and 5), grade 8 (testing content from grades 6, 7 and 8), and high school either grade 10 or 11 dependent upon course of study (testing content from Life, Earth, and Physical Science).

## MARYLAND ALTERNATIVE MARYLAND INTEGRATED SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (ALT-MISA)

When: March - May

Who: Students in grades 3-8 and 11

Description: The Alt-MISA, also known as Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom the general education science assessment (MISA) is not appropriate. The Alt-MISA is based on alternate achievement standards which have been derived from and are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students who take the Alt-MISA assessments are instructed and assessed on Essential Elements (EEs). EEs are grade-level-specific expectations about what students with the most significant cognitive disabilities should know and be able to do. Each science EE has three linkage levels which specify where a student is in relationship to the grade level target.

## MULTI-STATE ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT (MSAA)

When: March - May

Who: Students in grades 3-8 and grade 11

Description: MSAA is designed to assess skills in English/Language Arts and mathematics for student with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 through 8 and 11. This represents a very small number of students. The MSAA is based on alternate achievement standards which have been derived from and are aligned with the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS). The overall goal of the MSAA is to make sure that all students achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-school options.

## NAGLIERI NONVERBAL ABILITY TEST- 2ND EDITION (NNAT-2)

When: November

Who: Students in grade 3

Description: The NNAT-2 is a group ability test that does not require English language skills and knowledge that is taught in school. This test allows students to demonstrate their ability to think and reason by figuring out problems that are presented through a complex series of geometric shapes and designs. The NNAT-2 allows students to demonstrate advanced levels of reasoning without word knowledge, mathematics, or reading skills. The content of the NNAT-2 is completely nonverbal, the instructions are brief, and the questions may be solved using only the information that is presented in each diagram. New grade 4 and 5 students who did not have the opportunity to take the assessment in grade 3 are screened monthly as they enroll in St. Mary's County Public Schools.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER (PARCC)

When: April - May

Who: Students in grades 3-10

Description: The PARCC assessments are anchored in college and career readiness; provide comparability across states; and are able to assess and measure higher-order thinking skills such as critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. Developed by a number of states working together, the PARCC assessments measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers according to the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS). These assessments provide valuable information and tools to help teachers customize learning to meet the needs of students. All students are required to take the PARCC assessments, including students in special education, English language learners (ELLs), and students with 504 plans.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AND PREPARATION TESTS

### ACCUPLACER

Community Colleges, including the College of Southern Maryland, use the ACCUPLACER to determine student placement in English and mathematics. For students without a minimum score on the ACT or SAT, the ACCUPLACER is required for students who want to take a community college course in high school, or who plan on taking some course work after graduation at the community college. This assessment is offered to high school students at various times in their high school career. Students are encouraged to speak with their high school counselor for more details as needed.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses have the opportunity to sit for the corresponding exams in May. Colleges and universities use the AP exam results to determine college preparedness, student motivation, and placement. Students may have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at many of the nation's colleges and universities. High school students are urged to take the AP exam in specific subjects such as English, world and classical languages, chemistry, history, calculus, psychology, biology, physics, economics, computer science, environmental sciences, statistics, and fine arts. With the exception of AP Studio Art, which is a portfolio assessment, each AP exam contains a free response section, and a section of multiple choice questions. The modern language exams also have a speaking component, and the AP Music Theory exam includes an optional sight singing task. Each AP exam is given an overall score of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, with 5 indicating a student who is extremely well-qualified to receive college credit and/or advanced placement. A fee is associated with these exams. Pending funding approval, financial assistance may be offered based on student need. Check with the school testing coordinator at your child's school for information on the exams and associated fees.

### AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING (ACT) EXAM

The ACT is a highly respected, widely accepted measure of college readiness. The ACT assesses the degree to which students are prepared for college-level work. It has four main sections—English, reading, mathematics, and science—as well as an optional writing component. All four-year universities in the United States accept the ACT, as do more than 225 universities around the world. High school students can opt to take this test at various locations. There is a fee associated with this test and students can register online. Students are encouraged to speak with their high school counselor for more details as needed.

### ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY (ASVAB)

The ASVAB is a test for high school students taken when they are in 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade. Although the ASVAB may sound like a military test alone, the ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. The ASVAB is a test that consists of eight individual tests, including general science, arithmetic, reading, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information, auto and shop information, and mechanical comprehension. The ASVAB test isn't just an evaluation of those interested

in the military, but also for students interested in learning more about their abilities and what occupations and careers they might consider pursuing in the near future.

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (PSAT)  
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (NMSQT)  
SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT)

High school students may opt to take a number of tests offered by the College Board. The PSAT and NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarships Corporation. The PSAT measures critical reading, mathematics, and writing. Students will demonstrate their ability to understand and analyze written material, solve mathematical problems, interpret data, reason quantitatively, and demonstrate their ability to recognize and conform to the conventions of standard written English. This test will be administered to all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at their comprehensive high school in the fall. The SAT is used by many colleges and universities as part of their admissions process. The SAT measures a student's ability to read, analyze, evaluate and comprehend challenging texts, revise and edit grammar and punctuation, use and cite textual evidence as they read and write, and demonstrate skill in analyzing data, and to solve real world mathematical problems. The SAT Subject Tests indicate a student's readiness to take college-level courses in specific subject areas. There are 20 SAT Subject Tests in the areas of English, history, science, mathematics, and language. Some colleges use subject tests to place students into appropriate courses and as an additional data point when determining college admissions. This test will be administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students at their comprehensive high school in the spring. Students are encouraged to speak with their high school counselor for more details as needed.