

# ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

## Class of 2029

### FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2025–2026 MCPS Graduation Requirements at a Glance

**THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZES 1 DIPLOMA** for all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment of four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8 to meet the enrollment requirement unless an alternative enrollment plan is developed and a waiver is approved as outlined in regulation ISB-RA. All other requirements are summarized in the table below. Please consult the online MCPS Course Bulletin for 2025–2026 at [coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools](http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools) or your school counselor for further information.

| COURSE CREDITS   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING OR TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (TE)</b>  | <b>1 credit</b> designated <b>TE</b> . Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin and includes the study of computers and algorithmic processes or the application of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve practical problems and extend human capabilities.  |
| <b>ENGLISH</b>   | <b>4 credits</b> of organized instruction in comprehension of literary and informational texts, writing, speaking and listening, language, and literacy, of which 1 credit shall be aligned with the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) for English.   |
| <b>FINE ARTS</b>   | <b>1 credit</b> in dance, media arts, music, theatre, or visual art, or a combination of these.   |
| <b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>  | <b>1 credit</b> , Honors Health Education A/B   |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b>   | <b>4 credits</b> , 1 including instruction in algebra aligned with the MCA for algebra or 1 or more credits in subsequent mathematics courses for which Algebra 1 is a prerequisite, and 1 with the content standards for geometry.<br><b>STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER:</b> Students graduating in 2018 and later must be enrolled in a math course in each year of high school. This may result in students earning more than 4 credits in math for graduation. |
| <b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>  | <b>1 credit</b>   |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>   | <b>3 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) credits</b> , including 1 life science credit aligned to the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), 1 physical science credit, and 1 credit in Earth/space science or an NGSS course with the topics of Earth/space science integrated.  |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>  | <b>3 credits</b> , 1 U.S. History credit, 1 World History credit, and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit aligned with the MCA for government.   |
| <b>WORLD LANGUAGES OR PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND ELECTIVES</b>   | <b>2 credits</b> of the same world language which may include 2 credits of American Sign Language <b>AND</b> 2 credits in elective courses, <b>OR</b> Complete a state-approved career and technical education (CTE) program of study (POS) <b>AND a minimum of 0.5 credit</b> in elective courses or more depending on POS   |
| STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)   |   |
| <b>STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)</b>  | 75 service-learning hours<br>The SSL requirement is prorated for students enrolling in MCPS for the first time after Grade 6.   |
| MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT (MCA) REQUIREMENTS <sup>1,2</sup><br>These assessment requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). |   |
| <b>ALGEBRA 1</b>   | Course credit earned in Algebra 1 <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the Algebra 1 assessment at the end of the B semester course.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>ENGLISH 10</b>  | Course credit earned in English 10 or equivalent, or English 10 for ELs <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment at the end of the B semester course.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>GOVERNMENT</b>  | Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government or equivalent <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the Government End of Course (EOC) assessment at the end of the B semester course. The EOC is 205 of the National, State, and Local (NSL) Government Semester B grade. AP Government students must take either the AP Government Exam or the MCAP Government EOC assessment.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>   | Course credit earned in Biology or equivalent, <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the Life Science End of Course (EOC) assessment at the end of the B semester course. The EOC is 20% of the Biology Semester B grade. AP Biology students must take the Biology EOC assessment.</li> </ul>   |

<sup>1</sup> Substitute Test: Students earning qualifying scores on substitute tests (AP/IB) will meet the MCA requirement in that content area.

<sup>2</sup> Transfer Credit: Students transferring from outside Maryland public schools may be eligible to meet some MCA content-area requirements with transfer credit.