MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed. D. BJS/Cla

DATE: April 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Government High School Assessment

PURPOSE:

To update the State Board on the administration of the Government High School Assessment (HSA).

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Due to budget cuts, the Government HSA was eliminated from the FY12 budget. The last administration of the exam was in the 2010-2011 school year and the graduating class of 2011 was the last class to need the Government HSA for graduation.

In 2012, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that reinstated the Government HSA. It is proposed that the assessment be administered again in the 2013-2014 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The last administration of the Government HSA was in Spring 2011. The last graduating class that was required to take and pass the Government HSA was the graduating class of 2011. Classes graduating in 2012 through 2016 will use combined score options of 1208 if taking three HSAs or combined score of 1602 for four HSAs. It is proposed that the administration of the Government HSA begin again in 2013-2014. COMAR includes the government test as a graduation requirement; therefore, with the reinstatement of the exam, the State Board will review a proposal that determines when it will again be a graduation requirement and for which entering ninth grade class. Government could again be a graduation requirement starting with the incoming 9th grade class of 2013-2014 with the approval of the State Board.

ACTION:

For board consideration and action.

BJS:mlg

Government High School Assessment

Legislation- General Assembly 2012

- House Bill 1227- Education- Core Content Areas- Accountability Program
- Senate Bill 293- Education- Core Content Areas- Accountability Program

Proposed Implementation

2010-2011	Last Government HSA Administration; Graduating Class of 2011- Last Class to Graduate needing to pass Government HSA
2011-2012	No Government HSA administration
2012-2013	No Government HSA administration
2013-2014	Government HSA to be administered; Graduation requirement begins with entering 9th grade class
2014-2015	PARCC Administration to begin
2015-2016	PARCC Performance Standards Available

Background and Considerations

- Graduating Classes of 2012 through 2016 will use combined score option of 1208 if taking 3 HSAs (use 1602 if student took 4 HSAs)
- Government could again be a graduation requirement starting with the incoming 9th grade class of 2013-2014 with the approval of the State Board

Proposed Government HSA Timeline

		9th	10th	11th	12th			
2011-2012	2012-2013	2013 - 2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
		Students entering high school in 2013-2014 would be required to take the Government HSA at the completion of the course and obtain a combined score of 1602 as a graduation requirement						

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Questions/Input

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