

TESTING AND CURRICULUM

MABE POSITIONS

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education, representing all local boards of education in Maryland:

- ✓ **Supports** local decision-making authority in developing curriculum, assessments, and instructional programs in conjunction with the State Board of Education.
- ✓ **Supports** adequate state funding to support mandated assessment programs, including the PARCC tests, high school assessments, college and career readiness assessments, and state initiatives under the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- ✗ **Opposes** any efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum or testing matters inconsistent with MABE's adopted resolutions and legislative positions.

BACKGROUND

MABE believes that in creating the State Board and local boards of education the General Assembly has appropriately delegated the responsibility for the development of curriculum and student assessments. The State Board establishes state standards and graduation requirements; and local boards implement locally-developed curriculum to ensure that state standards are met and students are prepared to meet graduation requirements. In this way, state and local boards and educators collaborate to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable for their work.

The 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) represents a comprehensive revision of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001; and requires mathematics and reading or language arts assessments in each of grades 3 through 8 and at least once in grades 9 through 12. Science assessments must be administered not less than one time during grades 3 through 5; grades 6 through 9; and grades 10 through 12. Under ESSA, Maryland must develop a new state accountability plan to assure the federal government that the State has an accountability system that is based on challenging academic standards.

Maryland's approach to academic standards, curriculum, and student assessments continues to be influenced by NCLB, which mandated new student assessments and curricular reforms. Maryland complied with NCLB by approving new academic standards and curricular frameworks, and adopting the Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) in reading, mathematics, and science in grades 3 through 8, and grade 10; and three high school assessments. Maryland went beyond NCLB's testing mandates when the State Board adopted as graduation requirements passing scores on four High School Assessments (HSAs) in Algebra/Data Analysis, English, Biology, and Government. The State Board approved the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation to allow students not passing the HSAs to complete projects for credit toward graduation.

Maryland is implementing the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS) based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English/language arts and mathematics; and the Next Generation Science Standards. Maryland's assessments have been developed through the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); and Maryland administers PARCC tests in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8; two PARCC high school assessments in Algebra I and English 10; and the HSAs in Science and Government. Beginning in 2017, the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) has been administered to all students in fifth grade, eighth grade, and high school. Additionally, since 2013 high school juniors have been required to take assessments to demonstrate college and career readiness.

The legislature formed the Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools in 2015. In 2017, legislation passed to require procedures for mutual agreements with teachers unions on a limited amount of time that may be devoted to federal, State, and locally mandated assessments. In 2016, a bill passed to limit the administration of the kindergarten readiness assessment (KRA); and in 2017 a bill passed to require agreements with teachers unions on prekindergarten assessments.

For additional information, see [MABE's Resolution on Curriculum and Assessments](#).