

Frequently Asked Questions about Maryland's College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013

What is the College and Career Readiness and College Completion (CCRCCA) Act of 2013?

The CCRCCA of 2013 (Senate Bill 740) established requirements designed to increase college and career readiness and degree completion of students in Maryland. The Act includes provisions for several initiatives that affect secondary education in Maryland:

- Assessments of College and Career Readiness (CCR) in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics
- Transition courses for students not demonstrating CCR
- Enrollment in a mathematics course each year of high school
- Tuition reduction for students dually enrolled in high school and an institute of higher education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has charged each Maryland school district with developing a plan for the above-mentioned initiatives to ensure that students are college and career ready.

What does it mean to be College and Career Ready?

Maryland law defines College and Career Readiness as being ready to take a credit-bearing course in college. This may enable students to start college without taking developmental courses in Maryland community colleges.

What are the CCR assessment requirements?

By the end of 11th grade, each student must take an English assessment and a math assessment to determine the student's readiness for college and careers. MSDE allows students to demonstrate CCR in those subjects by earning an established score on any of the following approved assessments:

English CCR Scores and Assessments	Mathematics CCR Scores and Assessments
4 or 5 on PARCC* English 10 (pending further research by the MSDE)	4 or 5 on PARCC* Geometry for 11th graders only, combined with 12th grade enrollment in Algebra 2 (FCPS no longer administers PARCC Geometry)
4 or 5 on PARCC English 11 (Beginning in 2017-2018, FCPS will no longer administer PARCC English 11)	4 or 5 on PARCC Algebra II (Beginning in 2017-2018, FCPS will no longer administer PARCC Algebra 2 to 11 th graders.)
21 or higher on ACT composite/average of English and Reading	21 or higher on ACT Mathematics
480 or above on SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section	530 or higher on SAT Mathematics taken after 8/1/17 (500 on exams taken before 8/1/17)
79 or above on Accuplacer Reading and 90 or above on AccuPlacer Sentence Skills (both required)	45 or higher on Accuplacer Intermediate College Algebra
3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition or Literature and Composition	3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB or BC or AP Statistics
Dual Enrollment in an approved English course	Dual Enrollment in an approved math course
*PARCC stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers	

Must students take the PARCC English 11 and Algebra 2 assessments?

FCPS will no longer give the PARCC English 11 and Algebra 2 assessments to meet CCR requirements. Instead, 11th grade students will take a free school-day administration of SAT in March.

In rare cases, students who took Algebra 1 or Geometry during middle school may still be required to take the Algebra 2 exam to meet accountability requirements. The students who take the Algebra 2 exam may also use the score on that exam to meet CCR requirements.



Why did FCPS choose to administer SAT to all 11th grade students?

The SAT exam is significantly shorter than PARCC exams and allows FCPS to administer both ELA and mathematics in 3 hours instead of 10. FCPS research shows that our students perform better on the new SAT than they do on PARCC, ACT or the Accuplacer exams. Even if some 11th grade students have met CCR requirements, FCPS encourages students to use this free opportunity to improve SAT scores. Scores tend to increase with multiple administrations and students may choose to send colleges their highest score from any administration.

What happens if a student is not CCR by the end of 11th grade?

Students who do not demonstrate CCR by the end of 11th grade must enroll in a transition course that is typically the next course of study in English or Mathematics with some additional requirements. Transition courses are aligned with the Maryland CCR Standards and provide a re-assessment opportunity that allows students to demonstrate their English and mathematics readiness for college and careers. There are many measures on which receiving a passing score and grade would make a student CCR. School counselors can assist families with questions.

Can a student earn CCR status through Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs in place of earning a qualifying score on an approved assessment?

While students who are not CCR must still participate in transition courses, they can earn CCR status in the 12th grade by completing all four CTE Completer courses AND passing the applicable industry certification exam. School administrators and school counselors have a list of approved completer programs and requirements. This list is also available on fcps.org. Completing an approved CTE program will allow a student to meet CCR requirements in both English and Mathematics.

Must all students enroll in a mathematics course each year that they are in high school?

Yes. FCPS and SB740 require that all students enroll in a mathematics course each year of high school. [There is an exception for fifth-year seniors.] FCPS mathematics course options are listed in the FCPS Career Planning Tool and the High School Course Guide, available at fcps.org.

Will FCPS note a student's CCR status on the student's transcript?

No. The MSDE collects CCR information from each school district via a confidential file called the High School Status Completers file, annually submitted to the MSDE each summer with information about progress students have made achieving graduation requirements, student dropout and other accountability data.

Are CCR assessment requirements the same as graduation assessment requirements?

No. CCR assessments are in addition to required graduation assessments for Algebra I, Government, Science, and English 10. Even though students can currently use PARCC English 10 to meet CCR requirements, the CCR score requirements are not graduation requirements. For additional information about FCPS graduation requirements, see fcps.org or speak to a school counselor.

Can a student graduate with a Maryland diploma if the student has not demonstrated mastery of CCR content?

Yes, students may graduate without achieving CCR status.

Where can students and parents obtain additional information about CCR assessments and designations?

School administrators and school counselors can support students and parents/guardians with answers to questions regarding these assessments.

What is "dual enrollment," and who can answer questions about it?

Maryland law defines a dually enrolled student as a "student who is dually enrolled in: (1) a secondary school in the State; and (2) an institution of higher education in the State." FCPS has established a partnership with Frederick Community College (FCC) to provide students with opportunities to earn college credit while in high school. School counselors can provide additional information and details on requirements for dual enrollment. For example, students who receive a final course grade of an A or B in Algebra 2, Statistics & Probability, or ADV Algebra with Trigonometry or an A, B, or C in Pre-Calculus or higher course will meet CCR requirements in math.

