



Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

The Pathway to College, Career and Community Readiness

MCPS created a new guide to help families, students and teachers work together to ensure student success.

The Pathway to College, Career and Community Readiness helps identify students' strengths and areas of improvement to ensure each student receives the support they need.

Here's how it works:

- » Data reflecting a variety of classroom, local and state exams will be collected and published on the district Pathway Dashboard on the MCPS website.
- » The data and information collected will be used to address any learning gaps before students transition to a new grade level, college or the workforce.
- » Parents will receive information about whether their child is meeting or not meeting these specific benchmarks.
- » School staff, students and families will meet together to decide the best way to help the student succeed.
- » In addition to academic benchmarks, schools will also provide opportunities for students to cultivate core competencies and skills to prepare them for life after high school.

(See glossary for more details on assessments mentioned in this document)

Elementary School

KINDERGARTEN

MILESTONE: EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Research shows children who develop strong literacy skills in their early years perform better academically throughout their schooling years.</p> <p>Skills such as letter recognition, building sight words and learning to read and write, lay the foundation for future academic success</p>	<p>Teachers measure the child’s reading skills through a test called “<i>DIBELS</i>”.</p> <p>The test is given three times during the school year; fall, winter and spring.</p> <p>Children should have a “composite score” of 420 or higher</p>	<p>What areas of reading does my child need additional support or improvement based on their score?</p> <p>What can I do at home to support my child’s reading skills?</p> <p>What strategies are the school using to address any reading difficulties?</p>

GRADE 3

MILESTONE: READING BY GRADE 3

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Reading well by the end of Grade 3 is an essential educational benchmark. It is a foundation for future academic success. During this period, children transition from learning to read to reading to learn.</p>	<p>All grade 3 students take a test called “<i>MAP-R</i>”.</p> <p>Students should have a ‘<i>lexile</i>’ score of 600L or higher.</p>	<p>Can you provide books that are appropriate for my child’s range?</p> <p>Is my child meeting the district measure?</p> <p>What can I do at home to support my student?</p> <p>How will the school address any reading difficulties?</p>

GRADES 4 AND 5

MILESTONE: PROFICIENT IN MATH AND ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Beginning in Grade 4, students are reading to learn. They apply skills gained in other content areas like math to think critically and solve problems.</p>	<p>In grades 4 and 5, students take tests in Math and English Language Arts called the <i>Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)</i> test.</p> <p>The tests are given in the Spring.</p> <p>Students should score a 3 or higher.</p>	<p>What specific literacy and math skills are expected of my child at their current grade level?</p> <p>What extra support does the school offer?</p> <p>How can I support my child’s literacy and math development at home to ensure they meet or exceed the state standards?</p> <p>What strategies are used to help my child meet the state literacy and math standards?</p>

Middle School

GRADES 6, 7, AND 8

MILESTONE: PROFICIENT IN MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>In middle school, students extend the skills they learned in elementary school. The focus is to examine the breadth and depth of their knowledge and skills in literacy and mathematics to ensure students are prepared for high school level work.</p>	<p>In grades 6, 7, and 8, students take tests in Math and Reading called the <i>Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)</i> test.</p> <p>The tests are given in the Spring.</p> <p>Students should score a 3 or higher.</p>	<p>What specific literacy and math skills are expected of my child at their current grade level?</p> <p>What extra support does the school offer?</p> <p>How can I support my child’s literacy and math development at home to ensure they meet or exceed the state standards?</p> <p>What strategies are used to help my child meet the state literacy and math standards?</p>

High School

GRADE 9

MILESTONE: ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>This benchmark helps identify students who may be at risk of not graduating on time.</p> <p>Students need a specific number of credits to graduate. Students earn credits for each course they take. You can see the number of credits needed here.</p> <p>Students who obtain the required credits in grade 9 courses are three and one half times more likely to graduate from high school on time.</p>	<p>By the end of grade 9, a student must earn a minimum of five credits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » one credit for a required English course » one credit for a required mathematics course. 	<p>Has my child earned the appropriate number of credits this school year to be on track for graduation?</p> <p>What strategies are used at the school to support my child in successfully passing their courses?</p> <p>What can be done at home to get my child on the path to graduate on time?</p>

GRADE 10

MILESTONE: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Students are considered on track for being college and career ready when they meet specific scores on Math and English assessments. These scores have been set by the state of Maryland.</p> <p>Meeting these standards provide additional opportunities for students to participate in advanced learning programs such as IB/AP programs, Dual Enrollment, or Career and Technical Education programs</p>	<p>Students need to meet the following scores:</p> <p>English -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » English 10 assessment » Score 2 or 3 on Early Fall MCAP » Score 3 or 4 on Fall Block and Spring MCAP (December – January or March – May) <p>Mathematics -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry assessment ** » Score 2 or 3 on Early Fall MCAP » Score 3 or 4 on Fall Block and » Score of 520 on SAT 	<p>What strategies or teaching methods are being used to help my child meet the college and career readiness standards?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of activities, projects, or experiences that assist my child in developing the skills needed for college and career readiness?</p> <p>What can I do at home to support my student?</p>

GRADE 11

MILESTONE: COMPLETE AND PASS ALGEBRA II

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Algebra II is included in the University System of Maryland requirements designed to prepare students for college-level requirements.</p> <p>The concepts and skills learned in Algebra II provide the foundation for more advanced mathematics.</p>	<p>Earn a C or higher grade</p>	<p>How is my child's progress towards earning a C or higher in the course?</p> <p>Are there any standards or topics that my child is struggling to master?</p> <p>What extra support does the school offer?</p>

High School (Cont.)

GRADE 12

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>The goal is for students to graduate with a competitive grade-point average, earn a certificate of completion for students with disabilities and/or skill in a career area of interest.</p>	<p>Student should graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher</p>	<p>Is my child on track to graduate on time?</p> <p>Has my child earned all of their student service learning hours to graduate?</p> <p>Has my child passed all required assessments to graduate?</p> <p>Are there any courses my child still needs to earn credits to graduate?</p> <p>How can I schedule an appointment to meet with my child's counselor to review their transcript?</p> <p>What resources are available to support my child with earning credits and graduating?</p>

*This test was last given in the 2018-2019 school year.

** The Maryland State Department of Education identifies Algebra 2 and Geometry as a possible assessment. However, MCPS does not currently use it.

***There may be reasons why a student may be excluded from completing a specific milestone. Please speak with your child's counselor.

Parents and guardians can always ask to meet with a teacher or counselor. Below are some questions you can use:

What progress is my child making on the Pathway?

What steps can I take as a parent or guardian to support progress?

What should I be planning and thinking about as my child moves through each grade level on the Pathway?

Who should I contact to answer my questions?

ASSESSMENTS GLOSSARY

DIBELS - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of literacy skills. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures that can be used to regularly detect risk and monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills in kindergarten through eighth grade.

MAP-R - Measures of Academic Progress-Reading (MAP-R) provides an assessment of a student's skill level in the different reading achievement areas. These multiple assessments allow educators to measure academic growth in reading over time.

Lexile - Lexile is a scientifically-based Framework for Reading. The measures give a more precise measure of reading comprehension. A Lexile Reader Measure, used by MCPS, represents a student's reading ability on the Lexile scale.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) - The new MCAP tests are designed to assess students on mastery of Maryland's College and Career Readiness standards to ensure that all students are progressing and receiving the necessary support for remediation and enrichment.