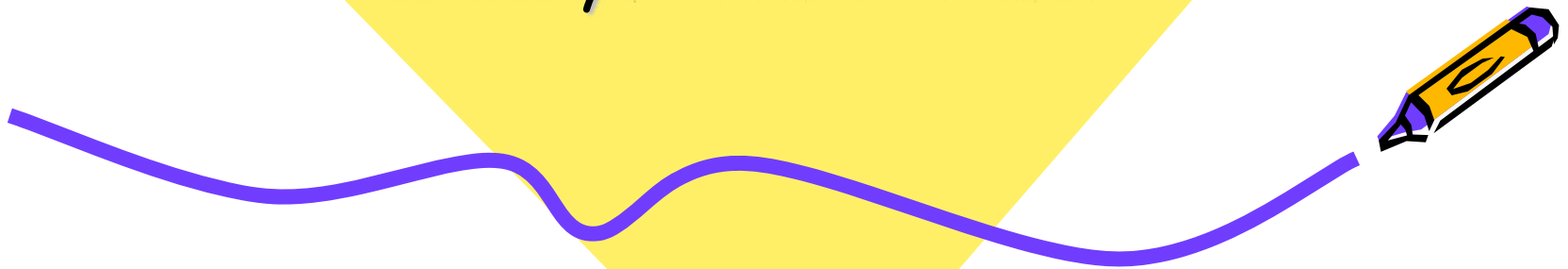




High School Assessments

What you should know



By: Carmen R. McGinnis



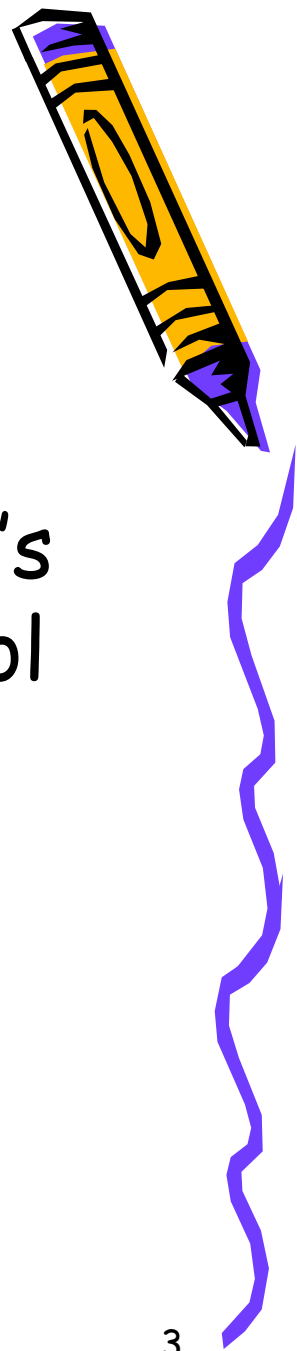
What are High School Assessments?



- Four tests
 - Algebra/data analysis
 - Biology
 - Government
 - English
- Each test is to be taken as the student completes the course, generally in the 10th grade.



What are these tests based on?



- The exams are based on the Core Learning Goals, a part of Maryland's curriculum that outlines high school course content and learning objectives.
- Check out: <http://HSAexams.org>
- and click About HSAs



Who is required to take these tests?

- Students who started 9th grade in or after 2005 must meet the state's high school testing requirements to graduate.
- Students who started 9th grade prior to 2005 are required to sit for the exam. They are not expected to pass.



Ways to meet HSA requirement

- ✓ Pass all four tests
- ✓ Earn combined score of 1602
- ✓ Complete the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

What are the passing scores?



HSA Content Area	Passing Score
Algebra/Data Analysis	412
Biology	400
English	396
Government	394

Combined-Score Option

Earn a combined score of at least 1602.

HSA Content Area		Combined Score Sample
Algebra/Data Analysis	412	407
Biology	400	405
English	396	406
Government	394	384
Combined Total		1602

Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

- The Bridge Plan is a series of challenging projects linked to the Core Learning Goals tested by each HSA.
- The number of projects assigned to your child will depend on the highest score he/she earned on the failed HSA.
- The higher the score, the fewer the projects assigned

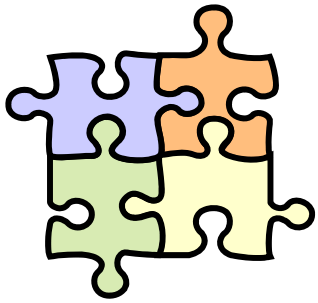


Who qualifies for the Bridge Plan?

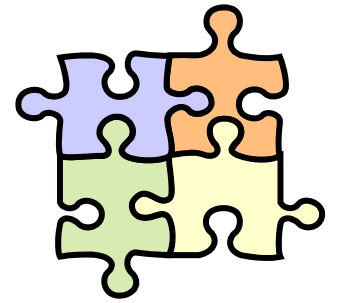
- ☀ Students must have failed an HSA at least twice
- ☀ Have passed the HSA-related course
- ☀ Participate in an assistance program offered by the school or school system. For instance, tutoring or after school instruction
- ☀ Have acceptable attendance record
- ☀ Making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

How many project must my child complete?

Assignment Chart				
No. of Projects	Algebra	English	Biology	Government
One	390-411	374-395	378-399	372-393
Two	368-389	352-373	356-377	350-371
Three	346-367	330-351	334-355	328-349
Four	324-355	308-329	312-333	306-327
Five	302-333	289-307	290-311	284-305
Six	280-301	264-285	268-289	262-283
Seven	Below 280	Below 264	Below 268	Below 262



When are the exams given?



- The HSAs are given in October, January, May, and July/August.
- A special seniors-only administration in April is given to help students who are having difficulty on tests to graduate on time.
- For a full calendar through 2011-12—including make up days for students who are absent during testing—go to HSAexam.org and click on Calendar

Accommodations



- The accommodation a student receives depends on what is written in the IEP. Some general accommodations:
 - Verbatim reading of selected portions or entire test.
 - Extended time
 - Use of a calculator
 - Reduce distractions

The High Road To Excellence



- Remediation during class
- Homework opportunities
- Work packets on school breaks
- After school instruction



We're all in this together....

- It's a proven fact that when parents are involved in their child's education, students are more successful
- You can help us by:
 - Forming a partnership with the school. If we are on the same page, they can't play us against each other.
 - Helping them to see that they must take these tests seriously
 - Insisting homework is completed. Ask to see it. Homework is given 4 days a week.
 - Encouraging your child to do their best.
 - Encourage them to ask for help if they need it.
 - Call/visit the school
 - Ask for progress reports

