

# Wicomico County Public Schools Assessment Program

## Introduction

In the Wicomico County Public School System, assessment is an on-going process of data gathering and analysis with the primary intent to improve instruction and student academic performance. The process flows from the Board of Education Mission Statement and encompasses all components of the Mission - "providing all students an educational foundation and set of skills which will enable them to become responsible and productive citizens in our society."

## Description of Tests

**ACT** – Assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work; the tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning

**Advanced Placement (AP) Tests** – Provides students earning a "qualifying" grade on one or more AP Tests the opportunity to be awarded credit or advanced placement by thousands of colleges worldwide

**English Language Proficiency Test** – Assesses English language proficiency for students who do not speak English or have limited English proficiency

**High School Assessments (HSA)** – "End of course" tests that assess both school performance and individual student performance in the areas of English 1, government, algebra/data analysis, and biology

**Maryland School Assessments (MSA)** – Assessments of reading, math and science that meet requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. MSA criterion-referenced scores show how well children have learned the reading, mathematics and science skills specified in the Maryland Content Standards.

**Maryland Measure of Student Technology Literacy** – Measures the ability of an individual, working independently and with others, to responsibly, appropriately, and effectively use technology tools to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, create, and communicate information

**Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT)** – Measures verbal reasoning skills, critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills and provides firsthand practice for the SAT I: Reasoning Test and SAT II: Writing Test. Scores are used to qualify students for National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) Scholarship programs

**SAT Reasoning Test** – A three-hour and forty-five-minute test that measures critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800, and the writing section will contain two subscores. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. It is administered seven times a year.

**SAT Subject Tests** – A battery of one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests that measure how much students know about a particular academic subject and how well they can apply that knowledge.

*A student who knowingly causes, allows, or is otherwise involved in the presentation of forged, counterfeit, or altered identification for the purpose of obtaining admission to a test administration site for any of the tests listed on this schedule card shall have the test results invalidated, and shall be ineligible to retake the test until the next official testing opportunity and may be subject to other disciplinary action. A student who knowingly engages in any activities during testing which result in invalidation of scores shall be ineligible to retake the test until the next official testing opportunity and may be subject to other disciplinary action.*

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