

# 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

**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.

**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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## 2008-2009 Assessment Calendar for Elementary Schools

<i>Administration Date(s)</i>	<i>Annual Assessments</i>	<i>Who Takes This Test? Students in grade(s):</i>
<b>March 17-18</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Reading	<b>3, 4, 5</b>
<b>March 24-25</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Math	<b>3, 4, 5</b>
<b>April 22-May 12</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Science	<b>5</b>

## 2008-2009 Assessment Calendar for Middle and High Schools

<i>Administration Date(s)</i>	<i>Annual Assessments</i>	<i>Who Takes This Test? Students in grade(s):</i>
<b>Oct 6-10</b>	High School Assessments* Oct 6 – Algebra/Data Analysis (HSA / MSA)    Oct 7 – Government (HSA) Oct 8 – English (HSA / MSA)                      Oct 10 – Biology (HSA)	Students who took the assessment in previous years and did not pass
<b>Oct 15</b>	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test for Juniors)	<b>9,10,11</b>
<b>Jan 12-15</b>	High School Assessments* Jan 12 – Algebra/Data Analysis (HSA / MSA)    Jan 13 – Government (HSA) Jan 14 – English (HSA / MSA)                      Jan 15 – Biology (HSA)	Students who took the assessment in previous years and did not pass
<b>March 17-18</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Reading	<b>6, 7, 8</b>
<b>March 19-20</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Math	<b>6, 7, 8</b>
<b>April 20-23</b>	High School Assessments* Apr 20 – Algebra/Data Analysis (HSA / MSA)    Apr 21 – Government (HSA) Apr 22 – English (HSA / MSA)                      Apr 23 – Biology (HSA)	<b>12</b>
<b>April 22 - May 12</b>	Maryland School Assessment (MSA) – Science	<b>8</b>
<b>May 4-15</b>	Advanced Placement Tests (AP Tests)	Students enrolled in AP classes choosing to take AP tests
<b>May 18-21</b>	High School Assessments* May 18 – Algebra/Data Analysis (HSA/ MSA)    May 19 – Government (HSA) May 20 – English (HSA / MSA)                      May 21 – Biology (HSA)	Students enrolled in assessed courses
<b>July 27 -31</b>	High School Assessments* Jul 27 – Algebra/Data Analysis (HSA/ MSA)    Jul 28 – Government (HSA) Jul 29 – English (HSA / MSA)                      Jul 30 – Biology (HSA)	Students enrolled in assessed courses

\*\*Students graduating before 2009 enrolled in assessed courses must take the associated High School Assessment to earn a diploma and participate in graduation exercises. Students graduating in or after 2009 enrolled in assessed courses must meet the passing criteria associated with the High School Assessment program.

<b>SAT I &amp; II Schedule</b>	
<i>Test Dates</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>
October 4, 2008	September 9, 2008
November 1, 2008	September 26, 2008
December 6, 2008	November 5, 2008
January 24, 2009	December 26, 2008
March 14, 2009	February 10, 2009
May 2, 2009	March 31, 2009
June 6, 2009	May 5, 2009

<b>ACT Schedule</b>	
<i>Test Dates</i>	<i>Deadlines</i>
September 13, 2008	August 12, 2008
October 25, 2008	September 19, 2008
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008
February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009

Juniors and seniors should see their Guidance Counselor concerning fees and questions for the SAT and/or ACT. On-line registration is available for the SAT at collegeboard.com and for the ACT at act.org