

POLICY	BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	POLICY 405

Purpose: To assure the promotion of students in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) and graduation from high school are in accordance with criteria issued by the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Board of Education of Frederick County (Board) policy as set forth below.

Policy Statement: The mission of a high school in the FCPS system is to challenge and support students to grow intellectually, personally, and socially. Students should be prepared for lifelong learning experiences, post high school education, and employment.

Definition: GED® is defined as “General Equivalency Diploma” and used interchangeably with high school diploma by examination.

405 Graduation Requirements – 25 credits

A. State Requirements

Subject	Credits
▪ English	4
▪ Science	3 (laboratory based; must include Biology)
▪ Mathematics	3* (1 must be Algebra & 1 must be Geometry) * Mathematics is required for every year of attendance, up to 4 years
▪ Social Studies	3 (Government, United States History & World History)
▪ Fine Arts	1
▪ Technology Education	1
▪ Physical Education	½
▪ Health	½
▪ Advanced Technology OR World Language OR State-Approved CTE program	2**
▪ Electives	<u>3**</u>

** These 5 credits must include ½ credit for Personal Financial Literacy for students entering 9th grade for the first time during or after the 2012-2013 school year.

State Credit Requirements 21

B. Additional Local Requirements

▪ Mathematics	1 (1 add'l elective beyond the state minimum of 3)
▪ Electives	<u>3</u> (student selected career pathway electives)

Total Local Additions 4 credits

C. State Assessment Requirements

To be awarded a Maryland High School Diploma, a student must meet the graduation assessment requirements. A student may meet the graduation assessment requirements in the following ways:

- (1) by taking and passing the Maryland High School Assessments (MHSA) in English 10, Algebra I, science and government; or
- (2) by taking and passing approved alternative assessments for the MHSA; or
- (3) by successfully completing the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation; or
- (4) through a waiver of the MHSA graduation requirement in certain circumstances.

The Maryland High School Assessments

Students take Maryland High School Assessments (MHSA) if the student received credit for taking any of the following courses aligned with the Maryland High School Assessment. (See COMAR 13A.03.02.06)

- English
- Algebra
- Science
- Government

"Maryland High School Assessments" means the HSA, PARCC, or other assessments in algebra, science, English, and government developed or adopted by the Maryland State Department of Education that are aligned with and measure a student's skills and knowledge as set forth in the Maryland Standards for those subjects. (See COMAR 13A.03.02.02)

Refer to *Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland* prepared by the Maryland State Department of Education:

<https://www.fcps.org/student-services/files/documents/general%20info%20for%20parents/GraduationsRequirementOverview.pdf>

D. Total Requirements for Graduation from Frederick County Public Schools

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	25
ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS	Take/Pass HSA

E. Completion of the Following Additional Programs

- World of Work
- Survival Skills
- Student Service Learning
- Environmental Literacy (Beginning with students entering 9th grade in the 2011-2012 school year)

Note: The curricular objectives in these areas are embedded within the Frederick County Public Schools curriculum and may not represent specific courses.

F. Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment

Students shall satisfactorily complete four years of approved study beyond 8th grade unless one of the alternatives is satisfied in the COMAR State Board of Education Graduation Requirement Bylaw and Frederick County Public Schools Regulation 400-34 *Alternatives to Four-Year Enrollment*.

G. High School Diploma by Examination (i.e. GED®)

1. With the exception of Section G2 below, an individual may obtain a high school diploma by examination if the individual:
 - a. Has not obtained a high school diploma;
 - b. Resides in the State of Maryland;
 - c. Is not subject to compulsory school attendance under Maryland law; and
 - d. Has withdrawn from a regular full-time public or private school program.

2. An individual is not subject to the requirements of Section G1 above if the individual participates in a GED® Option Program administered by the Maryland State Department of Education by examination for currently enrolled high school English learner students under the age of 21 years who have experienced interrupted education and have a lower level of English proficiency than their peers.

NOTE: Cross-reference FCPS Regulation 500-10 *Placement, Promotion and Grouping of Students*

Legal Reference	§ 7-205 and § 7-205.1 Education Article, <i>Annotated Code of Maryland</i>		
	§ 11-808 Labor and Employment Article, <i>Annotated Code of Maryland</i>		
	COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland		
	COMAR 13A.05.07.02 and 13A.05.07.03 Programs for English Learners		
Source Document	Maryland Student Record Systems Manual		
Policy History	Reviewed 2018, 2019	Adopted 11/8/00	Revised 1/23/19