

## High School Assessments

All students are required to take and pass the High School Assessments (HSA) in order to graduate from a Maryland public school.

HSA's are given in January and May every year for all students. There is a special HSA offered in October for students needing to retake an HSA; and a special Senior only HSA in April.

- Students can earn a passing score on all three exams (scores listed below); OR
- Students can use a combined score which requires earning a total score of 1208 or higher.

Subject Area	Passing Score
English (GP Lit)	396
Algebra/Data Analysis	412
Biology	400

HSA information website: [www.hsaexam.org](http://www.hsaexam.org)

Top Ten Facts about the HSA: [http://www.hsaexam.org/img/HSA\\_Top\\_10.pdf](http://www.hsaexam.org/img/HSA_Top_10.pdf)

### **What happens if my student doesn't pass?**

Students can retake the HSA as many times as they need. Students who do not pass an HSA will talk to their counselor or the Academic Facilitator to receive extra help before the retake the exam. There are many websites that parents and students can utilize to help prepare for the exam.

MSDE has sample tests available ([http://www.hsaexam.org/sample\\_tests.html](http://www.hsaexam.org/sample_tests.html))

Online practice tests (<http://www.hsaexam.org/support/practice.html>).

MSDE has developed online courses (<http://www.hsaexam.org/online.html>) that parents can use to help students prepare.

Another great practice website is <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/hsa>.

For more information, talk to your student's counselor.

## **2011-12 HSA Testing Calendar:**

*Please try to avoid these dates when planning surgeries, vacations, and other events that may require your student to miss school.*

### October 2011 Re-take Administration:

October 3<sup>rd</sup>- English  
October 4<sup>th</sup> – Biology  
October 5<sup>th</sup>- Algebra  
October 6<sup>th</sup>- Make up Day

### January 2012 Administration:

January 9<sup>th</sup>- English  
January 10<sup>th</sup> – Biology  
January 11<sup>th</sup> - Algebra

January 17<sup>th</sup>- Make-up English  
January 18<sup>th</sup> – Make-up Biology  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – Make-up Algebra

### Senior-only April 2012 Administration:

April 16<sup>th</sup> – English  
April 17<sup>th</sup>- Biology  
April 18<sup>th</sup>- Algebra  
April 19<sup>th</sup>- Make up Day

### May 2012 Administration:

May 21<sup>st</sup> – English  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Biology  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Algebra

May 29<sup>th</sup>- Make-up English  
May 30<sup>th</sup>- Make-up Biology  
May 31<sup>st</sup>- Make-up Algebra