



MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP) PERFORMANCE

DATA AND KEY FINDINGS

2025-2026

PREPARED BY:
HCPS Office of Accountability



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Board of Education Presentation
October 12, 2026

BOE Long-term Goal 1:

*Prepare every student for success in
postsecondary education and career*

ELA: Performance Overview

Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 Year Change
3	54.0%	58.6%	55.5%	61.5%	60.4%	+6.4
4	55.3%	59.2%	61.8%	58.5%	61.0%	+6.7
5	46.0%	47.6%	55.8%	58.3%	56.4%	+10.4
6	46.7%	57.5%	61.5%	63.7%	65.0%	+18.3
7	46.0%	53.5%	57.4%	63.2%	64.9%	+18.9
8	43.9%	51.1%	52.4%	53.5%	55.7%	+11.8
10	56.9%	59.1%	53.7%	62.4%	63.9%	+7

ELA: Assessment Highlights

ELA:

- MSDE recognized HCPS as a school system "leading in reading" based on growth over the last 5 years (+11.3).
- Overall proficiency rose to 61.1%.
- HCPS advanced to 6th place statewide and exceeded state averages.
- Grades 6 and 7 have shown the most growth over the last 5 years (+18.3 and +18.9 respectively).

- **Foundational focus pays off:** Early literacy and Science of Reading practices continue to drive ELA gains.
- **Screen & intervene:** Early screening and MTSS supports ensure timely, targeted reading help.
- **Middle school lift:** Double-period ELA, PBL, and i-Ready sharpen instruction and boost engagement.
- **ELA 10 peak performance:** Highest proficiency since new standard continues to be driven by empowered leaders and data use.



Grades 3–8: HCPS outperformed similar counties Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, and Montgomery.

Mathematics: Performance Overview

Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 Year Change
3	44.8%	49.8%	49.5%	51.3%	50.2%	+5.4
4	34.9%	38.4%	40.9%	40.3%	42.0%	+7.1
5	26.2%	32.6%	35.8%	37.3%	33.2%	+7
6	23.1%	21.9%	22.9%	26.9%	26.7%	+3.6
7	10.9%	13.2%	11.1%	14.4%	16.2%	+5.3
8	5.0%	5.4%	6.1%	5.9%	4.8%	-0.2
Algebra I	14.1%	17.7%	16.3%	18.7%	19.6%	+5.5

Mathematics: Assessment Highlights

Mathematics:

- HCPS ranked 7th in the state in grades 3 to 5.
- The district outperformed the state by 6 percentage points at the elementary level.
- Grade 3 had the highest proficiency in HCPS Math at 50.2%.
- Grade 4 and 7 made the most one-year increase (+1.7 and +1.8 points respectively).

- **Elementary momentum:** Use of enVision (2024), aligned PD, and implementation of Comprehensive Math Plan show early gains that will continue momentum through enhanced assessments, family communication, differentiation, and tiered instruction.
- **Middle school alignment:** i-Ready Personalized Instruction and PD on high-cognitive-demand tasks / discourse strengthen coherence and Algebra readiness. Advisory supports, HQIM adoption and implementation, and differentiation PD drive future improvement.
- **Algebra I focus:** Growth among first-time testers reflects enVision Algebra I, targeted PD, and cognitive-demand work, advancing CCR.



Grades 3–5: HCPS outperformed similar counties Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Cecil; **Grades 6-8:** HCPS outperformed Baltimore and Cecil.

Science: Assessment Highlights

Science:

- HCPS students scored above the state average at all levels:
 - Grade 5 (39.8%, MD 32.4),
 - Grade 8 (37.5%, MD 30.9), and
 - High School Life Science MISA (50.6%, MD 47.8%)

Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	5 Year Change
5	33.5%	40.3%	30.9%	31.4%	39.8%	+6.3
8	43.0%	32.7%	31.7%	35.1%	37.5%	-5.5
LS MISA	36.8%	34.7%	41.3%	47.8%	50.6%	+13.8

- Growth in proficiency can be attributed to strong professional development and continued focus on Performance Expectations.
- MISA 5 and 8 are based on Performance Expectations which cover three years of instruction. The Performance Expectations that are assessed change each year due to the random selection of state standards, resulting in a virtually new test each year.



Grades 5 & 8: HCPS outperformed similar counties Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Cecil.

Social Studies: Assessment Highlights

Social Studies:

- Grade 8 proficiency (44.0%) exceeded the state average by 2.3 points.
- American Government rebounded after a year of course realignment and a small number of test takers.
- American Government scored 10.2 points higher than the state.

Grade	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	4 Year Change
8	41.8%	43.6%	42.6%	44.0%	+2.2
HS Gov	43.8%	48.8%	30.6%*	56.2%	+12.4

- The restructuring of the high school social studies course sequence allows students to build a more coherent and developmentally appropriate understanding of historical and civic concepts, which in turn supports stronger performance on the MCAP Government exam.
- Beginning in the 2024–25 school year, HCPS implemented a newly developed Grades 6–7 Social Studies curriculum designed to vertically align with the skills and content measured by the Grade 8 assessment. The impact will be seen as students take the 2026-27 social studies 8 MSTAR assessment.



Grade 8: HCPS outperformed similar counties Baltimore and Cecil.
American Government: HCPS outperformed Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Cecil, and Baltimore.

HCPS Compared to MSDE

MCAP Test	All Harford Schools	All Maryland Schools
ELA All Grades	61.1%	51.7%
ELA 03	60.4%	50.4%
ELA 04	61.0%	48.6%
ELA 05	56.4%	46.8%
ELA 06	65.0%	50.7%
ELA 07	64.9%	54.6%
ELA 08	55.7%	50.2%
ELA 10	63.9%	59.7%
ELA 3-5	59.3%	48.6%
ELA 3-8	60.5%	50.2%
ELA 6-8	61.8%	51.8%

MCAP Test	All Harford Schools	All Maryland Schools
Math All Grades	28.4%	27.1%
Algebra 1	19.6%	21.3%
Algebra 2	39.3%	27.1%
Geometry	20.7%	44.5%
Math 03	50.2%	42.6%
Math 04	42.0%	34.8%
Math 05	33.2%	30.2%
Math 06	26.7%	23.2%
Math 07	16.2%	18.5%
Math 08	4.8%	9.6%
Math 3-5	41.8%	35.8%
Math 3-8	31.6%	27.8%
Math 6-8	18.0%	18.1%

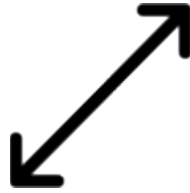


EMPLOYED · ENLISTED · ENROLLED

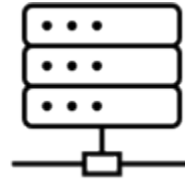
MSTAR = Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness



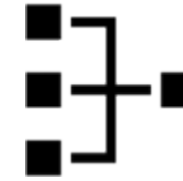
**Shorter
Test Length**



**Expanded
Item Bank**



**Adaptive Testing
& Accessibility
Updates**



**Enhanced Test
Administration
Platform**



**Improved
Standard Setting**



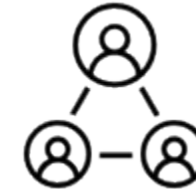
**Earlier Reporting
for Educators**



**New Online
Family Portal**



**New Centralized
Reporting System
for Educators**



**Customizable
Communications
Tools & Resources**

Assessment Changes Timeline

The only change for the 2026-27 school year:

MSTAR given in Grades 3-8 ELA/L and Math, March 29–May 28, 2027

Grades Bands/ Assessments	SY 26-27 (Year 1)	SY 27-28 (Year 2)	SY 28-29 (Year 3+)
Grades 3–8 ELA/L & Math			
Grades 5 & 8 Science			
Grade 8 Social Studies			
HS ELA/L (Grade 10)			
HS Science (Life Science)			
HS Social Studies (Government)			
HS Math (Alg I & II, Geometry)			Sunsetting courses and tests, replaced with MSTAR Integrated Math Assessments

Resources

HCPS Assessment Calendar
www.hcps.org

MCAP Results from 2025-26
www.mdreportcard.com

Practice tests & resources
mstar.mdassessments.com

