

# College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard: Definitions, Business Rules, and FAQs

During the March 25, 2025 State Board of Education meeting, the State Board voted to adopt a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard, as required by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. MD Code, Education, §7-205.1, which directs the State Board of Education to adopt a CCR Standard “that enables the student to be successful in entry level credit bearing courses or postsecondary education training at a State community college.”

The full adopted policy is available at: <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Documents/CCR-Standard-Policy-Adopted-03-2025-A.pdf>

In addition to the policy linked above, this business rules and FAQ document provides additional definitions and business rules to further clarify and explain the policy and how it should be implemented. This document replaces and supersedes the previous guidance documents from 2024.

For further information or questions, please contact MSDE’s Division of College and Career Pathways at [occp.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:occp.msde@maryland.gov).

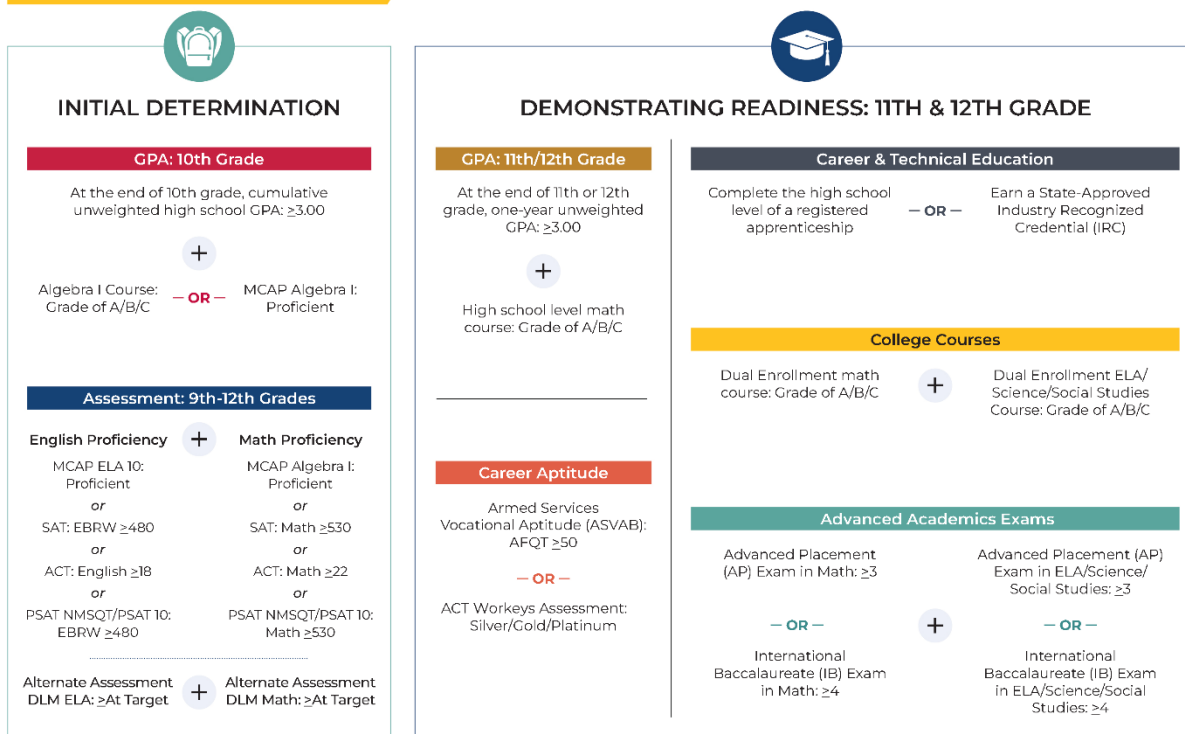
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# College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard: Policy and Business Rules

## NEWLY ADOPTED COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) STANDARD POLICY (2025)

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) STANDARD 2025-2026



For more information about Maryland public schools, visit our website at [marylandpublicschools.org](http://marylandpublicschools.org)

The March 2025 adopted CCR Standard, in effect starting in the 2025-2026 school year, offers students a number of options to meet the CCR Standard. Below are the options that the State Board of Education adopted. These have been reorganized to provide a better understanding of the CCR identification process. Additional details and rules on each option are provided later in this document.

## Section 1: CCR Standard Options for Initial Determination

A student's status of meeting the CCR Standard can be initially determined through either achieving Academic Success and Math Mastery or through achieving assessment proficiency by meeting benchmarks on both English and math assessments.

Students may meet the CCR Standard through achieving Academic Success and Math Mastery starting at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students may utilize the assessment proficiency options to demonstrate readiness starting at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by demonstrating **both** Academic Success **and** Math Mastery

- **Academic Success** is achieved by earning a Cumulative High School Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher at the end of 10th grade (cumulative, unweighted, all courses).
- **Math Mastery** is demonstrated by earning one of the following:
  - A final course grade of A, B, or C in Algebra I
  - OR
  - Scoring Proficient or above on the Algebra I MCAP assessment.

### Assessment Proficiency (Option 2 and Option D)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by meeting assessment benchmark scores on both English and mathematics assessments. A student can independently achieve the subject area benchmark for an assessment and do not need to meet the benchmarks on the same assessment for both subject areas. Students may meet the CCR Standard through this option at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade or at any point after that.

**Table 1: Assessment Benchmarks for the CCR Standard**

English Proficiency Benchmarks		Math Proficiency Benchmarks
MCAP ELA 10 ≥ Proficient	<b>PLUS</b>	MCAP Algebra I ≥ Proficient
SAT: EBRW ≥ 480		SAT: Math ≥ 530
ACT: English ≥ 18		ACT: Math ≥ 22
PSAT NMSQT/PSAT 10: EBRW ≥ 480		PSAT NMSQT/PSAT 10: Math ≥ 530
Alternate Assessment DLM ELA: ≥ At Target*	<b>PLUS</b>	Alternate Assessment DLM Math: ≥ At Target*

*\*Participation in the Alternate Assessments is reserved only for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, who have been determined by their IEP teams as eligible to participate in the Alternate Framework (Option E)*

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## Section 2: CCR Standard Options for Demonstrating Readiness

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Students who have not yet met the CCR Standard by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade may demonstrate readiness through the following options. These options are only considered after a student has had an initial determination of CCR at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade through the options described in Section 1. Meeting the CCR Standard through one of these options will only be recognized for students at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.

### **Grade 11 or Grade 12 Academic Success and Math Mastery** (*Option A*)

Students in Grade 11 or Grade 12 may meet the CCR Standard by demonstrating **both** Academic Success **and** Math Mastery.

- **Academic Success** is achieved by earning a one-year High School Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. This GPA is not cumulative of previous years and only includes courses completed in the student's 11<sup>th</sup> grade or the student's 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- **Math Mastery** is demonstrated by earning a grade of A, B, or C in a high school level math course at any point in the student's high school career.

### **Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation**

Students may meet the CCR Standard by demonstrating initial success in a Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway, as described below in any one of these options. Meeting the CCR Standard through one of these options will only be recognized for students at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.

#### **Dual Enrollment / Dual Credit Courses** (*Option B*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by earning a grade of C or better (unless otherwise specified by dual enrollment agreements) in at least two core-content dual enrollment or dual credit courses at any point in the student's high school career. One of these courses must be a math course, and one of these courses must be an ELA, Science, or Social Studies course

#### **Advanced Academics Exams** (*Option C*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by meeting performance threshold on at least two advanced academics (AP or IB programs) assessments at any point in the student's high school career. One of these assessments must be a math assessment and one of these assessments must be an ELA, Science, or Social Studies assessment. For Advanced Placement (AP) assessments, the performance threshold is scoring a 3 or higher, International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme assessments, the performance threshold is scoring a 4 or higher.

#### **Industry-Recognized Credential** (*Option G*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by earning a state-approved Industry-Recognized Credential, aligned with a Career and Technical Education and/or Comprehensive Arts pathway.

#### **Registered Apprenticeship** (*Option H*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by completing the high school level of a registered apprenticeship program.

**Career Aptitude**

Students can meet the CCR Standard by demonstrating career aptitude on the ACT WorkKeys or the ASVAB assessments.

**ACT WorkKeys** (*Option F*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by earning Silver or better on the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) assessment.

**ASVAB** (*Option I*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by earning a score of at least 50 on the ASVAB.

**Assessment Proficiency** (*Option 2 and Option D*)

Students may meet the CCR Standard by meeting assessment benchmark scores on both English and mathematics assessments. A student can independently achieve the subject area benchmark for an assessment and do not need to meet the benchmarks on the same assessment for both subject areas. The benchmark scores are defined in Table 1: Assessment Benchmarks for the CCR Standard. Students may meet the CCR Standard through this option at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade or at any point after that.

## BUSINESS RULES AND DEFINITIONS

1. Certain options to meet the CCR Standard are only available to students once they reach a particular grade level.
  - a. Meeting the CCR Standard through **Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1)** may only be utilized by students at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year or at the end of any semester after that point.
  - b. Meeting the CCR Standard through **Assessment Proficiency (Option 2 and Option D)** may be utilized by students at the end of their 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.
  - c. Meeting the CCR Standard through **Grade 11 or Grade 12 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option A)** may only be utilized by students at the end of their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.
  - d. Meeting the CCR Standard through **Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I)** will only be recognized for students at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years if they have not met the CCR Standard through the initial determination options. If a student meets the criteria in **Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I)** before the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, that status will not be conferred upon the student until they complete 10<sup>th</sup> grade. For example, if a student meets the criteria for Option C (two AP or IB assessments in specific courses) in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, they will not be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard until they complete 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. Once a student meets the CCR Standard, this designation cannot be revoked for that student. This applies even if the student's GPA decreases below the threshold in future years.
3. To achieve the Math Mastery component of **Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1)** through an Algebra I course grade, the final cumulative course grade must be used. An interim course grade that only reflects a segment of the full course may not be used (e.g. A student's grade for one quarter or one semester of a full year course may not be used.)
4. To achieve the Math Mastery component of **Grade 11 or Grade 12 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option A)**, the student must earn a grade of A, B, or C in a high school level math course at any point in the student's high school career, the student may use any high school level math course completed at any point in middle school or high school.
5. As used in **Grade 11 or Grade 12 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option A)**, "One-Year GPA" means an academic year.
6. All GPAs used to determine whether a student meets the CCR Standard must be the student's unweighted GPA. The unweighted GPA shall be calculated using all courses, not just core content courses.
7. The qualifying scores to meet the CCR Standard through **DLM Alternate Assessments (Option E in Assessment Proficiency)** are "At Target" or above, including a score of "Advanced".
8. The implementation timeline for the options to meet the CCR Standard are as follows:
  - a. **Option 1 and Option 2** went into effect beginning with School Year 2023-2024.

- b. **Options A – I** went into effect beginning with School Year 2025-2026.
  - c. Students may use performance results from previous school years to meet the CCR Standard, including before the new options went into effect. For example, if a student met the CCR benchmarks on the SAT (as defined in Option D) in 2024, they will be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard as of the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
9. The State share of the CCR per pupil amount, as described in MD Code, Education, § 5-217, will be distributed to each LEA based on the total number of students who meet the CCR Standard in the second-prior school year. For example, the number of enrolled students in the 2025-2026 school year who meet the CCR Standard will inform the CCR program amount for Fiscal Year 2028. The number of enrolled students in the 2025-2026 school year who met the CCR Standard, including using data from Spring 2026, will be calculated in the Fall of 2026, and used to inform the budget for Fiscal Year 2028, which is submitted in December 2026.
10. The following list of AP and IB courses are those that will count towards meeting the CCR Standard under the measure described in **Advanced Academics Exams (Option C)**:
- a. Math
    - i. AP Assessments:
      - 1. AP Calculus AB
      - 2. AP Calculus BC
      - 3. AP Precalculus
      - 4. AP Statistics
      - 5. AP Computer Science Principles
      - 6. AP Computer Science A
    - ii. IB Assessments:
      - 1. Analysis and Approaches
      - 2. Applications and Interpretation
  - b. English Language Arts, Science, or Social Studies:
    - i. AP Assessments:
      - 1. AP English Language and Composition
      - 2. AP English Literature and Composition
      - 3. AP Seminar English 10
      - 4. AP Biology
      - 5. AP Chemistry
      - 6. AP Environmental Science
      - 7. AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
      - 8. AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based
      - 9. AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
      - 10. AP Physics C: Mechanics
      - 11. AP African American Studies
      - 12. AP Art History
      - 13. AP Comparative Government and Politics
      - 14. AP European History
      - 15. AP Human Geography
      - 16. AP Macroeconomics
      - 17. AP Microeconomics
      - 18. AP Psychology

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19. AP United States Government and Politics
  20. AP United States History
  21. AP World History: Modern
  - ii. IB Assessments:
    1. Language A: Literature
    2. Language A: Language And Literature
    3. Literature and Performance
    4. Biology
    5. Chemistry
    6. Computer Science
    7. Design Technology
    8. Environmental Systems and Societies
    9. Physics
    10. Sports, Exercise and Health Science
    11. Business Management
    12. Digital Society
    13. Economics
    14. Geography
    15. Global Politics
    16. History
    17. Philosophy
    18. Psychology
    19. Social and Cultural Anthropology
    20. World Religions

## College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard: Frequently Asked Questions

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### TIMING AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MEETING THE CCR STANDARD

- Q:** Can a student be CCR at any time in high school if they meet one of the newly approved requirements (excluding the one-year GPA for juniors and seniors)?

**A:** Students may meet the CCR Standard at different points in their high school career depending on the option used. Details are outlined in the business rules above.
- Q:** When should the student's CCR Standard status flag be set? Can it be set every semester?

**A:** MSDE only reviews and funds based on end-of-year data collections. LEAs can continue to update CCR statuses in local data systems as throughout the school year to assist with identifying or exiting supports. GPA calculations are limited to the end of the school year.
- Q:** When do we evaluate a student's GPA for those who were not deemed CCR at the end of 10th grade? For our 11th and 12 graders, is it any time their GPA reaches 3.00+, at the end of Semester 1, or only at the end of the school year?

**A:** To be eligible for CCR through Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1) , students must have enough high school credits earned to be considered a 10th-grade student as determined by the LEA. The CCR status of a student may be determined at the end of the student's 10th grade year, or at the end of any semester after that point. Please note that an interim course grade that only reflects a segment of the full course may not be used to calculate GPA (e.g. A student's grade for one quarter or one semester of a full year course may not be used to calculate GPA.)

To be eligible for CCR through Grade 11 or Grade 12 Academic Success and Math Master (Option A) , the GPA must be calculated at the end of the student's 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade years, based on the full school year.
- Q:** For Grade 9 students in School Year 2023-2024, if they took the Algebra 2 MCAP in spring 2024 (and earn 750+), will MSDE recognize this score and apply it to CCR for the end of next year?

**A:** Yes, the Algebra 2 MCAP assessment may be used as part of the interim CCR standard. Beginning in 2025-2026, the interim CCR Standard, including the Algebra 2 and Geometry MCAP, will no longer be an option for determining CCR.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC OPTIONS

### GRADE 10 ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND MATH MASTERY (OPTION 1)

5. **Q:** For 11th graders in School Year 2023-2024, can the student use their GPA from the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year (School Year 2022-2023) to meet the Option 1 CCR Standard?  
**A:** No, Option 1 began in School Year 2023-2024. Students in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in School Year 2023-2024 and beyond are able to meet the CCR Standard through the GPA option. A student's GPA from School Year 2022-2023 or before may not be used to meet the CCR Standard.
6. **Q:** Can a 9th grade student meet the CCR Standard through Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1)?  
**A:** No.
7. **Q:** Can a 10th grade student meet Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1) if they met the criteria at the end of 9th grade, but their GPA at the end of 10th grade is now below 3.0?  
**A:** No. To be eligible for CCR through the use of GPA, students must have enough high school credits earned to be considered a 10th-grade student, as determined by the LEA. The CCR status of a student may be determined at the end of the student's 10th grade year, or at the end of any semester after that point.
8. **Q:** For students who enter Maryland schools late: Is there a minimum number of courses or semesters needed before a GPA is eligible for the CCR Standard?  
**A:** To be eligible to meet the CCR Standard through Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1), students must have enough high school credits earned to be considered a 10th-grade student as determined by the LEA. For students who transfer into the school, the grades for courses that are used towards meeting graduation requirements may be included when calculating their GPA (based on local definitions) for determining their eligibility for CCR.

### GRADE 11 OR GRADE 12 ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND MATH MASTERY (OPTION A)

9. **Q:** Do middle school courses that count for high school credit apply to the requirement "The student must also earn a grade of A, B, or C in a high school level math course at any point in the student's high school career."  
**A:** Yes, the A, B, or C in a high school math course can be achieved in a previous grade level, including middle school. However, the one-year GPA is only calculated from the yearly courses taken in Grade 11 or 12.
10. **Q:** What constitutes an "11<sup>th</sup> grade year" and "12<sup>th</sup> grade year"? Is the year by semester, EOY, term, quarter, marking period, summer school, etc.?  
**A:** The student's grade level should align with the grade level as reported on end of year files submitted to MSDE (HSDC/ End of Year Attendance).
11. **Q:** Can the one-year GPA cross 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade school years? For example, can we use the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade?  
**A:** No. The one-year GPA means an academic year.

12. **Q:** How do we handle transfer students? Do they need a one-year GPA within a single school, LEA, or the state?  
**A:** The LEA should use their individual school system GPA calculation. If it is not possible due to transfer records to calculate a one-year year GPA, the measure cannot be used.
13. **Q:** Can students use any HS level math course for option A? Does Financial Literacy Count?  
**A:** A high school math course is a math course where students earn high school math credit. This determination is currently decided at the LEA level but will be streamlined with the adoption and implementation of statewide standards for Secondary Mathematics Pathway courses in SY 27-28.
14. **Q:** What is the minimum number of credits needed to calculate the one-year GPA? How should we handle special circumstances such as reduced loads for dual credit, behavior reasons, early release, apprenticeships, etc.?  
**A:** LEAs should follow local procedures to determine the minimum number of credits for a year.
15. **Q:** Can the one-year GPA be calculated after just one semester, if they have enough credits?  
**A:** No. The “one-year GPA” means an academic year.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT / DUAL CREDIT COURSES (OPTION B)

16. **Q:** How are “dual enrollment” and “dual credit” defined?  
**A:** The following definitions will apply:
- Dual Enrollment:** In Maryland, dually enrolled students are enrolled in both a Maryland secondary school and a Maryland institution of higher education simultaneously. Dual enrollment courses are credit-bearing college courses—and usually result in students’ progress being recorded on a college transcript from a postsecondary institution.
- Dual Credit:** High school students may earn both high school and college credits for passing the same credit-bearing college course. Not all courses taken as dual enrollment can be counted for dual credit. It is important for students to meet with their high school counselor prior to enrolling in college courses.
17. **Q:** Do middle school courses that count for dual enrollment and high school credit apply? Do these count as part of the student’s “high school career”?  
**A:** Yes.
18. **Q:** Can two math dual enrollment courses count as the two core-content courses?  
**A:** No, one of these courses must be a Math course and one of these courses must be an ELA, Science, or Social Studies course.
19. **Q:** Who will identify the corresponding SCED codes for courses, including dual enrollment courses, to determine what content area they count for?  
**A:** The LEAs determine the appropriate SCED code selection for reporting a course in MSDE data collections
20. **Q:** How is a grade of “C” defined?  
**A:** Locally defined grading policies and agreements with colleges should be used to determine a student’s course grade.

21. **Q:** Do dual enrollment courses taken outside of a dual enrollment agreement apply?  
**A:** No.

### ADVANCED ACADEMICS EXAMS (OPTION C)

22. **Q:** Can a student take two advanced academic assessments that are both Math courses?  
**A:** No, it cannot be two math courses. The student must have at least one Math course and one ELA/Science/Social Studies course.
23. **Q:** Do assessments taken in middle school apply or do they need to be in high school at the time of the assessment?  
**A:** Yes, assessments taken in middle school can apply.
24. **Q:** Does the student need to be enrolled in an associated AP/IB course or can they take the assessment on their own prerogative.  
**A:** No, the standard only specifies the assessment. The student does not necessarily need to be enrolled in the associated course.
25. **Q:** Which AP and IB assessments count towards the CCR Standard?  
**A:** Please see the list available starting on Page 7.

### ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY (OPTION 2 AND OPTION D)

26. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** Meeting the CCR Standard through Assessment Proficiency benchmarks may be utilized by students at the end of their 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.
27. **Q:** Which students should be offered the opportunity to take the PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT?  
**A:** Scores on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 may count towards meeting the CCR Standard regardless of when the student takes the assessment. LEAs should follow local procedures and College Board guidance for which test to assign to specific grade levels.
28. **Q:** Can students combine scores from multiple assessment administrations to meet the benchmark for English Language Arts and mathematics?  
**A:** Yes, students meet each marker subject area benchmark independently. For example, a student could combine a SAT score for English and math score for ACT to meet the overall CCR status.

### DLM ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS (OPTION E)

29. **Q:** Does “Advanced” also meet the score requirement?  
**A:** Yes
30. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** Based on existing policies and procedures, students assess for the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessments in grade 11.

**ACT WORKKEYS (OPTION F)**

31. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** The student must complete Grade 10 to be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard through Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I). A student may use accomplishments from before Grade 10, but these will not be recognized until the student completes Grade 10. and has not met the CCR Standard through the initial determination options.

**INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL (OPTION G)**

32. **Q:** When will the list of Industry-Recognized Credentials be finalized by the CTE Committee?  
**A:** The list of Industry-Recognized Credentials was finalized on July 1, 2025. The governing policy and approved credential list is available at:  
<https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCCR/industry-credentials.aspx>
33. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** The student must complete Grade 10 to be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard through Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I). A student may use accomplishments from before Grade 10, but these will not be recognized until the student completes Grade 10.

**REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP (OPTION H)**

34. **Q:** What kinds of apprenticeships will count?  
**A:** The high school level of a Registered Apprenticeship that meets the requirements of the Governor's Workforce Development Board and Career and Technical Education Committee's policy will satisfy the requirement. This policy is available at:  
<https://www.gwdb.maryland.gov/policy/gwdbcte2024commapprenticeshippolicy.pdf>
35. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** The student must complete Grade 10 to be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard through Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I). A student may use accomplishments from before Grade 10, but these will not be recognized until the student completes Grade 10.

**ASVAB (OPTION I)**

36. **Q:** What grade level does the student need to be in order to qualify under this benchmark?  
**A:** The student must complete Grade 10 to be recognized as meeting the CCR Standard through Blueprint Post-CCR Pathway Participation or Career Aptitude (Options B, C, F, G, H, and I). A student may use accomplishments from before Grade 10, but these will not be recognized until the student completes Grade 10.
37. **Q:** How is the qualifying score calculated?  
**A:** Students who score greater than or equal to 50 on the ASVAB AFQT score will meet the CCR

Standard. AFQT scores are computed using the Standard Scores from four ASVAB subtests: Arithmetic Reasoning (AR), Mathematics Knowledge (MK), Paragraph Comprehension (PC), and Word Knowledge (WK).

## GRADING POLICIES

38. **Q:** How will the new standards apply to transfer out-of-state and/or out-of-country transfer students? Will transfer grades in Algebra 1 be accepted toward CCR? Will transfer GPAs be accepted or will students have to wait until they have a MD GPA?
- A:** For students who transfer to your school, the grades for courses that are used towards meeting graduation requirements may be included when calculating their GPA (based on local definitions) for determining their eligibility for CCR.
39. **Q:** What happens to a student that transfers in from out of state or has a "credit" listed for the MCAP Algebra 1 with indication that they completed state testing requirements? Is the only way for this student to be CCR to pass MCAP?
- A:** LEAs may consider a transfer grade along with a transfer credit. There are multiple options to meet the CCR standard which include through assessment proficiency scores and/or through a GPA.
40. **Q:** How should we handle the situation if the sending school doesn't provide a letter grade for Algebra I? Some transcripts show pass/fail.
- A:** Courses taken with a pass/fail grading system should not be included in GPA calculations, only courses where a letter grade is issued should be used to calculate GPA. A transcript grade of "Pass" in Algebra 1 should be acknowledged as a C or better. However, if a student has no letter grades, they cannot meet CCR through the GPA option. Students can meet the CCR standard by scoring proficient on the MCAP assessments or through the additional assessment and course options.
41. **Q:** What about the kids who received a P or F in Algebra 1 during the Covid year? Would that be considered an A, B, or C?
- A:** Courses taken with a pass/fail grading system should not be included in GPA calculations, only courses where a letter grade is issued should be used to calculate GPA. A transcript grade of "Pass" in Algebra 1 should be acknowledged as a C or better. It is the expectation that in most cases, students will have earned a letter grade for Algebra 1; instances of students meeting the CCR standard with a "Pass" should be a rare exception.
42. **Q:** We have students who received a P in Algebra 1 and then subsequently a C+ in Algebra 2. Can we use Algebra 2 in addition to Algebra 1 courses in the algorithm?
- A:** Courses taken with a pass/fail grading system should not be included in GPA calculations, only courses where a letter grade is issued should be used to calculate GPA. A transcript grade of "Pass" in Algebra 1 should be acknowledged as a C or better. Achievement in Algebra 2 is not included in the new criteria for meeting the CCR Standard. The focus remains on mastering Algebra 1 content which has been identified as essential for all students' readiness. While Algebra 2 content overlaps with and extends from Algebra 1, mastery in Algebra 2 alone doesn't necessarily indicate proficiency in Algebra 1 essentials. With a commitment to diverse perspectives, the MSDE Mathematics Branch will continue gathering feedback and expert insights on this matter and will update our approach as necessary based on further information and analysis.

43. **Q:** Do recovery/summer school Algebra 1 courses count for the C or better?  
**A:** Any Algebra 1 course with a final grade of C or higher that can be used to meet graduation requirements can be included as a measure of math mastery for CCR determinations.
44. **Q:** Some LEAs offer Algebra 1 Part A and Algebra 1 Part B. If a student is enrolled in two separate Algebra 1 courses, in total making up all of Algebra 1, how does the grade get calculated for the “C in Algebra 1” requirement? Is it an average, a C or higher in both, or the higher of the two grades?  
**A:** The final summative grade for the Algebra 1 course should be used for the determination of the math mastery requirement.
45. **Q:** How will we document and report the student’s GPA to establish the student met the CCR Standard?  
**A:** GPAs are typically included on a student transcript. However, this can be locally defined. Each LEA should have documented grading policies related to GPA calculations in the event of an audit. A student’s CCR status will be collected through the High School Data Collection (HSDC). LEAs should maintain the appropriate records according to their processes. LEAs are also to maintain compliance with all existing reporting and audit requirements, including those in COMAR 13A.03.02.08, which requires each local school system to develop a written policy on grading and reporting and to file its policies annually with the State Superintendent of Schools.
46. **Q:** If a student earns a D in Algebra 1, can a C or higher in a subsequent Algebra-based course count for CCR?  
**A:** For Grade 10 Academic Success and Math Mastery (Option 1), only a C or higher in Algebra 1, or by scoring Proficient or above on the Algebra I MCAP, meets the math mastery component of the CCR Standard. We maintain that mastering Algebra 1 content and standards is essential for College and Career Readiness. MSDE’s Mathematics Branch is actively working with local and national math experts to outline algebraic course sequencing and content, creating a framework for courses that ensures they incorporate essential Algebra 1 content and standards in innovative ways. This approach aims to enrich and advance students’ algebraic skills, building upon their prior experiences rather than duplicating them, thereby promoting equity in educational opportunities and additional access to meeting the CCR Standard.

## CCR SUPPORTS

47. **Q:** If a 10th grade student passed Algebra 1 with a D in 9th grade and has a 3.0, can they retake Algebra 1 in summer school and earn a better grade to meet the CCR Standard?  
**A:** Each LEA has the authority to determine their rules around whether a student can retake a course that they have already passed. The student will only get credit for an Algebra 1 course once.
48. **Q:** The LEA is considering offering a summer course to our current grade 8 students who are in Algebra I and will earn a final course grade of “D”. These students would retake the course in the summer. If they repeat the course and earn a “C” or higher they will then meet the math mastery portion for repeating?  
**A:** Offering Summer classes and determining the weight of the grades earned during the summer session are LEA decisions. Based on the CCR Standard, if student achieved Math Mastery by either earning a final course grade of A, B, or C in Algebra 1 AND earned a GPA of 3.00 or higher, at the end of their 10th grade year or after, they are designated as meeting the CCR Standard.

## POST CCR-PATHWAYS

49. **Q:** Starting with the High School Data Collection (HSDC) in 2024, will the State fund all students who meet the CCR Standard in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A:** The new CCR standard went into effect beginning with the school year 2023-2024. Student funding for FY 2026 included all school year 2023-2024 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who met the CCR Standard.

50. **Q:** Are systems able to cap the number of dual enrollment and college courses a student can take in one year?

**A:** Yes, as [adopted by the State Board and the AIB in April/May 2024](#), LEAs are responsible for, at a minimum, for students who have met the CCR standard: 2 dual enrollment courses per Fall and Spring academic semester per student, for a possible total of 4 dual enrollment courses per year per student; and Exam fees directly connected to courses that students are enrolled in for their first attempt at a specific exam. Students may enroll in additional dual enrollment courses beyond those covered by the LEA. The costs of these additional courses will be the responsibility of the student. This includes enrollment beyond the guaranteed two courses per Fall and Spring semesters or courses taken outside the Fall or Spring semesters, such as during the Summer semester.

51. **Q:** Are systems able to implement early college programs that allow students to dually enroll in more than 4 courses per year beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A:** Yes, LEAs may offer early college programs. LEAs may fund early college programs at their discretion. The CCR policy adopted by the State Board and AIB sets the minimum requirement for LEAs to offer to students who have met the CCR standard; LEAs have the option to go beyond this requirement to offer additional dual enrollment courses for students who do or do not meet the CCR standard.

52. **Q:** Starting in School Year 2024-2025, AP courses/test fees and dual enrollment courses for CCR students should be paid for by LEA, correct?

**A:** Yes, as [adopted by the State Board and the AIB in April/May 2024](#), LEAs are responsible for, at a minimum, for students who have met the CCR standard: 2 dual enrollment courses per Fall and Spring academic semester per student, for a possible total of 4 dual enrollment courses per year per student; and Exam fees directly connected to courses that students are enrolled in for their first attempt at a specific exam. This includes fees connected to AP assessments directly connected to AP courses that students are enrolled in.

53. **Q:** Are LEAs required to pay for AP retests under CCR? In other words, if a student retested one year later to get a higher score, does that need to be covered?

**A:** No, LEAs are responsible for exam costs for only the first or initial attempt for all students who have demonstrated CCR-readiness and are currently enrolled in the course. However, if a student retakes the class in a following semester or year, that counts as a new course enrollment, so LEAs are then responsible for the cost of that exam.

54. **Q:** Starting in School Year 2024-2025, all community colleges must enroll CCR students in credit-bearing courses, correct?

**A:** Yes, each community college and other open-enrollment public institution of higher education shall accept for enrollment in credit-bearing courses any individual who has achieved college and career readiness.

55. **Q:** Can community colleges also enable students who haven't met the CCR Standard to enroll in credit-bearing courses?

**A:** Yes, community colleges may set additional criteria beyond the CCR Standard that allows additional students to enroll in credit-bearing courses.

# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) STANDARD

## 2025-2026



### INITIAL DETERMINATION

#### GPA: 10th Grade

At the end of 10th grade, cumulative unweighted high school GPA:  $\geq 3.00$



Algebra I Course: Grade of A/B/C — **OR** — MCAP Algebra I: Proficient

#### Assessment: 9th-12th Grades

##### English Proficiency

MCAP ELA 10: Proficient

or

SAT: EBRW  $\geq 480$

or

ACT: English  $\geq 18$

or

PSAT NMSQT/PSAT 10: EBRW  $\geq 480$



##### Math Proficiency

MCAP Algebra I: Proficient

or

SAT: Math  $\geq 530$

or

ACT: Math  $\geq 22$

or

PSAT NMSQT/PSAT 10: Math  $\geq 530$

Alternate Assessment  
DLM ELA:  $\geq$ At Target



Alternate Assessment  
DLM Math:  $\geq$ At Target



### DEMONSTRATING READINESS: 11TH & 12TH GRADE

#### GPA: 11th/12th Grade

At the end of 11th or 12th grade, one-year unweighted GPA:  $\geq 3.00$



High school level math course: Grade of A/B/C

#### Career Aptitude

Armed Services  
Vocational Aptitude (ASVAB):  
AFQT  $\geq 50$

— **OR** —

ACT Workkeys Assessment:  
Silver/Gold/Platinum

#### Career & Technical Education

Complete the high school level of a registered apprenticeship

— **OR** —

Earn a State-Approved Industry Recognized Credential (IRC)

#### College Courses

Dual Enrollment math course: Grade of A/B/C



Dual Enrollment ELA/Science/Social Studies Course: Grade of A/B/C

#### Advanced Academics Exams

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in Math:  $\geq 3$

— **OR** —

International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam in Math:  $\geq 4$



Advanced Placement (AP) Exam in ELA/Science/Social Studies:  $\geq 3$

— **OR** —

International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam in ELA/Science/Social Studies:  $\geq 4$