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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., Interim State Superintendent of Schools

**DATE:** January 23, 2024

**SUBJECT:** College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard Adoption

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### **Purpose**

This presentation aims to provide a briefing to the State Board of Education about the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard, the empirical research study, and options, context, and implications for adopting a revised version of the CCR Standard, as directed by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The presentation also includes a request to adopt a revised Career Readiness Standard.

### **Background**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is a historic opportunity to transform education and accelerate student achievement for students across Maryland. The Blueprint requires MSDE to commission an empirical study of the interim College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education in February 2022. To meet the interim CCR standard, students must achieve a qualifying score on both the state grade 10 English Language Arts test and a high school math test.

Following the completion of an empirical research study, the State Board now has the opportunity to adopt a revised CCR Standard that reflects the results of that study. To inform the State Board on the CCR Standard, stakeholders were invited to submit feedback through a set of different opportunities.

### **Executive Summary**

1. Background on CCR Standard and Research Study
2. CCR Standard Revisions: Engagement and Feedback
3. CCR Standard Adoption
4. CCR Standard Research Study
5. Next Steps

### **Action**

Request that the State Board adopt the revised Career Readiness Standard as described.

### **Attachments**

CCR Standard Revisions January 2024.pdf

# College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard Adoption

January 23, 2024

Presented By |

Phil Lasser, Office of the State Superintendent  
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# CCR Standard: Blueprint Statutory Context

- The Blueprint requires a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard be set that allows graduates to succeed in entry-level credit-bearing college courses. The goal is for all students to meet the standard by the end of their 10th grade year and no later than graduation.
  - The Blueprint directs the State Board to adopt a CCR Standard that reflects the results of the empirical research study, once complete.
- Meeting the CCR Standard enables students to:
  - Be prepared for a Post-CCR Pathway (AP, IB, dual enrollment, early college, Career and Technical Education (CTE), etc.)
  - Enroll in credit-bearing courses in Maryland community colleges

## Blueprint Statute Excerpts:

- *“A student shall meet the CCR standard when the student meets a standard in English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science that enables the student to be successful in entry level credit bearing courses or postsecondary education training at a State community college.”*
- *“After the study conducted [...] is complete, and periodically thereafter, the State Board shall adopt a new CCR standard.” “After the empirical study required [...] is complete, the CCR standard shall reflect the results of that study.”*
- *“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 according to the standard adopted by the State Board.”*
- *“When the Accountability and Implementation Board determines that the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future has been fully implemented, post-CCR pathways shall be available only to students who have met the CCR standard, except under limited circumstances determined by the Board.”*
- *“Subject to [the paragraph above], beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, [implementation] may not preclude enrollment in the initial stages of one or more post-CCR pathways [...], including the opportunity to make progress towards a CTE credential.”*

MD Code, Education, §15-126; §7-205.1

# Graduation Requirements and CCR Standard

## Graduation

- **Requirements:**
  - Earn 22 course credits (4 English, 4 math, 3 science, 3 social studies, and others)
  - Take the MCAP Assessment for Algebra I, science, government, and English 10
  - Complete 75 hours of student service
- **Benefits:**
  - Earn a Maryland High School Diploma

## CCR Standard

- **Requirements:**
  - Interim CCR Standard requirements, as described above.
  - *(A new revised CCR Standard can be adopted, pending State Board action.)*
- **Benefits:**
  - Prepared for success in Post-CCR Pathways (AP, IB, Dual enrollment, CTE, etc.)
  - Guaranteed enrollment in credit-bearing courses in community colleges
  - Additional per-pupil funding generated for the school

\*Graduation requirements for students entering Grade 9 in SY2021–22 or later. LEAs may set additional requirements on top of State requirements. Alternative assessments are available for some areas.

# CCR Standard Revisions Timeline

- September 26, 2023
  - Empirical research study final report presented to the State Board of Education.
- October 24, 2023
  - **Proposals for the CCR Standard are presented and discussed** at the State Board meeting
- October 25, 2023 – November 30, 2023
  - **Online Feedback Survey Open**
- November 9, 2023
  - **Virtual Public Hearing**
- December 5, 2023
  - State Board of Education **discussion on CCR Standard**

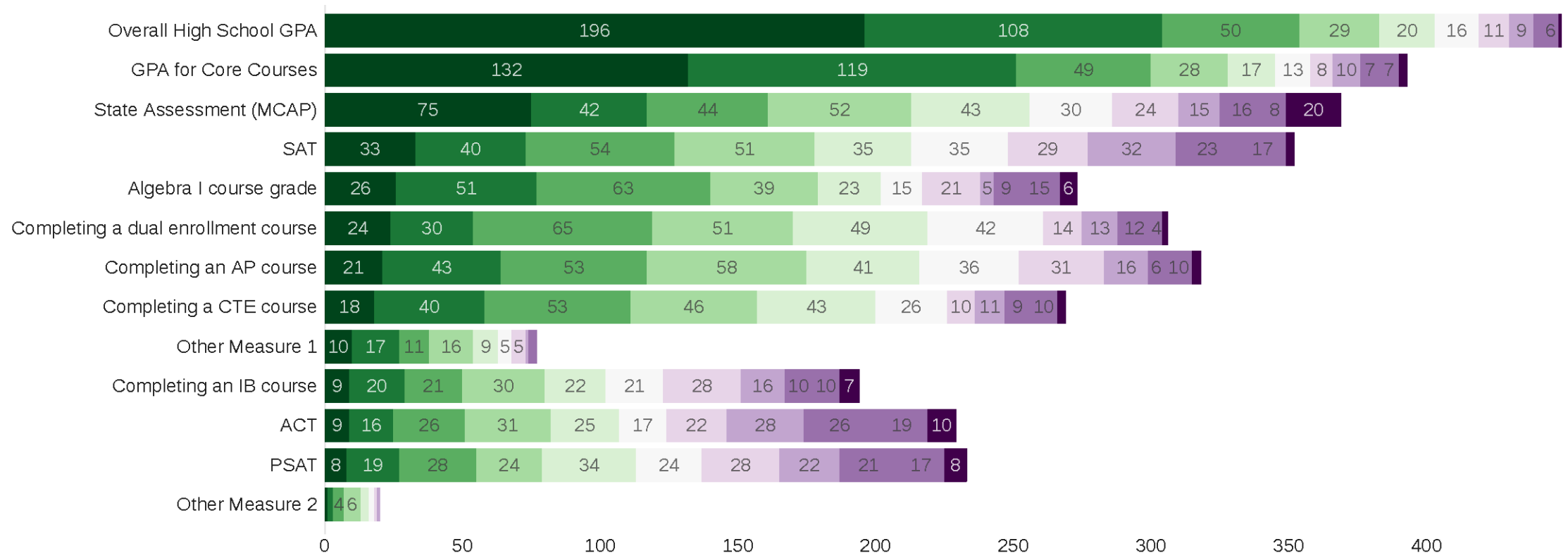
# Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement has been a **top priority** throughout the CCR research study and adoption processes.
- MSDE and AIR engaged various stakeholders in the **design, execution, analysis, and discussions of the study**, including representatives of the **higher education** community, **elementary and secondary instructional leaders and educators**, **workforce representatives**, and other stakeholders across Maryland.
  - **Listening sessions, focus groups**, and other in-depth conversations on the CCR Standard reached **over 200 stakeholders**.
- During the **Public Hearing** on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the **State Board** heard from **20 stakeholders** sharing their input on adopting a new CCR Standard.

# Feedback Survey Results

Which metrics should be included in the CCR Standard, and which are most important?

#1 (Green) is the most important



# Feedback Survey Results

- Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to share as much as they would like in response to the **open-ended question:**

*What would you like the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education to know as they review the CCR Empirical Research Study and consider changes to the CCR Standard?*

- **Over 386 stakeholders submitted responses** to this question, including students, teachers, school district officials, parents, employers, and more.
- Responses included **robust, in-depth, and nuanced statements about the CCR Standard, which metrics should be included**, implications and consequences of adopting the CCR Standard, as well as other **opinions, clarifications, and information**.
- The full set of responses are included in the Board Members' materials.



# Key Takeaways From Predictive Validity Analysis

The study found that an **alternative CCR standard** that allows students to demonstrate readiness through **multiple measures by passing exams or earning a 3.0 GPA** is a **better predictor of post-secondary success and is more inclusive**.

*Among students who enrolled in a Maryland college the fall after their fourth year of high school*

**Percentage of students who met the CCR standard at the end of Grade 10**



**Percentage of students correctly classified as college ready or not college ready: with postsecondary progress benchmark of at least 12 college credits in first semester**



\* Calculations based on cohorts of students in grade 10 from 2017 to 2021.

# Study Recommendations

- In its empirical research study final report, AIR made the recommendation that Maryland should **revise the CCR standard to assess CCR more accurately and equitably**. Specifically, AIR recommends that Maryland:
  - **Provide multiple measures** for students to demonstrate college and career readiness, **including a GPA measure**. This recommendation was a result of findings from:
    - Postsecondary stakeholders
    - Literature on bias in assessments
    - Prior research on predictive validity of measures
    - Predictive validity of the interim standard and alternative standards
  - If a GPA option is included in the CCR standard, **provide guidance to local education agencies** to better standardize and align grading practices across the state.

## CCR Interim Standard (Current)

- The **CCR interim standard**, that is in effect now, was **specified in the Blueprint legislation and adopted by the State Board of Education in February 2022.**
- A student meets the interim CCR Standard if **they meet or exceed the standards on the state assessments in both English and math.**

### Blueprint Interim CCR Standard (Currently in Effect)

#### English

##### English 10

- **Score 3 or 4 on Fall or Spring MCAP (2022 – present)**
- **Score 2 or 3 on early Fall 2021 MCAP**
- **Score 4 or 5 on the PARCC (2015 - 2019)**

**AND**

#### Math

##### Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry

- **Score 3 or 4 on Fall or Spring MCAP (2022 – present)**
- **Score 2 or 3 on early Fall 2021 MCAP**
- **Score 4 or 5 on the PARCC (2015 - 2019)**

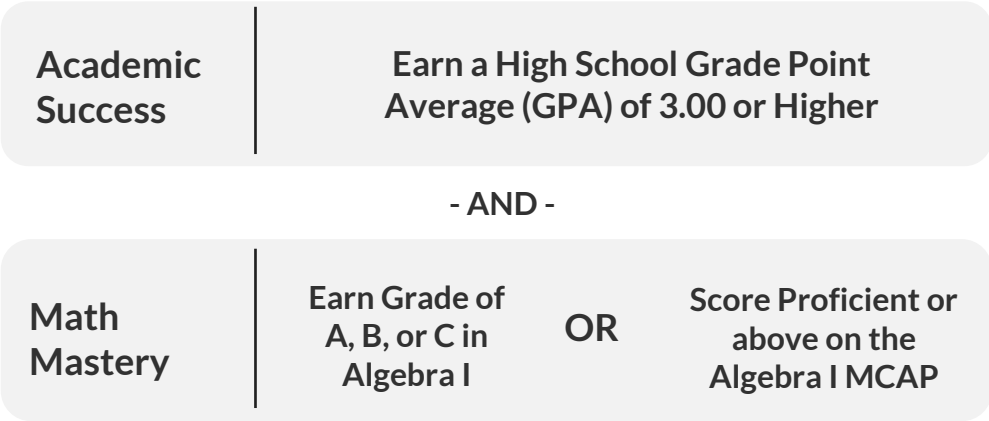
**Or score 520 on the Math SAT**

The Maryland State Board of Education adopted the interim standard on February 22, 2022, based on Blueprint Statute.

# CCR Standard: Recommendation for Adoption

## CCR Standard: Recommended Proposal

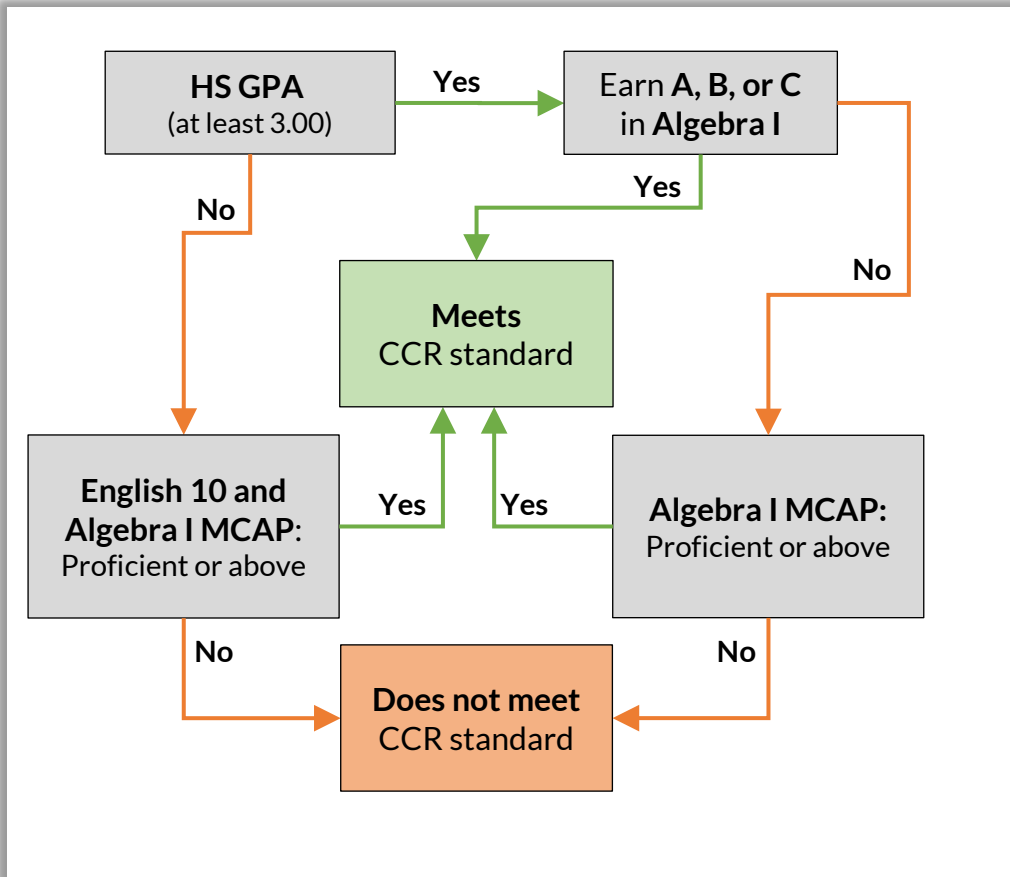
### OPTION 1



### OPTION 2

Score Proficient or above on the ELA 10 AND Algebra I MCAP Assessments

## Recommended Proposal Flow Chart



# College and Career Readiness Funding

- The CCR per-pupil amount, generated by each 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who has met the CCR Standard, is allocated to the student’s LEA each year to provide access to the Post-CCR Pathways and other programming.

**\$540**

FY23 FUNDING AMOUNT  
BASED ON:

[% of students meeting interim **CCR Standard in Spring 2019**] multiplied by [# of students in attendance in **Spring 2021**]

**\$567**

FY24 FUNDING AMOUNT  
BASED ON:

[% of students meeting interim **CCR Standard in Spring 2019**] multiplied by [# of students in attendance in **Spring 2022**]

**\$595**

FY25 FUNDING AMOUNT  
BASED ON:

# of 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting interim **CCR Standard in Spring 2023**

**\$625**

FY26 FUNDING AMOUNT  
BASED ON:

# of 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting **New CCR Standard in Spring 2024**

The CCR program amount is subject to state share and local share calculations and the funding is wealth equalized

# Proposed Implementation Timeline

As part of the new CCR Standard proposal, the revision may be implemented with this timeline:

- **Student Identification**

- Based on data up to and including the 2023-2024 school year, eligible 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> students will be identified as meeting the new CCR Standard for the 2024-2025 school year.

- **Data Collection**

- Data on students meeting the new CCR Standard will be collected in the High School Data Collection (HSDC) beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The 2023-2024 HSDC collection will include data on graduating classes of 2024-2027.

- **Funding**

- CCR per-pupil funding amounts beginning with FY26 will be based on the new CCR Standard.

# Next Steps

## A. CCR Standard Adoption

1. MSDE recommends the State Board of Education adopt the recommended CCR Standard as presented, to be effective for all high school students starting in the 2024-2025 School Year.
2. The State Board of Education and MSDE will continue to study, monitor, and evaluate the effects and implications of the newly adopted CCR Standard.
3. MSDE will work with LEAs and schools to communicate with parents, students, educators, and the wider public on the development, purpose, and impact of the CCR standard.

## B. Future Policy Initiatives

1. Prioritize the Launch Years Initiative, which is charged with using data to develop recommendations to improve alignment of mathematics content, courses, pathways and related educational policies. The goal is to complete this work by June 2024.
2. Draft and adopt a Statewide secondary grading policy, to be implemented in School Year 2025-2026.
3. Examine the CCR Support Pathway, for students who do not meet the standard, and provide guidance for LEAs by Fall 2024.
4. Tentatively study aligning the CCR Standard with Graduation Requirements and provide recommendations by Summer 2024, to be implemented in School Year 2025-2026.

# Questions and Discussion