



# An Overview of K-12 Testing in Maryland

## What Tests Do Maryland Students Take Now?

### Required Statewide Tests

**Pre-K** Kindergarten Readiness Assessment  
*Helps teachers and parents prepare young learners for Kindergarten*

**Grades 3-8** Tested annually English Language Arts\* and Math\*  
**Grades 5 & 8** Tested in Science

**Grades 8-12** Tested once in English\*, Algebra\*, Biology, and Government by or before Grade 12

\* PARCC

### Local Tests

In addition to the required state tests, each school system has the power to decide which tests and exams to give students in their schools. Consult your school to learn which local tests students take in each grade.

## How Can Parents Help Their Children During Test Time?

- Meet with your child's teacher in advance to understand the specific areas where your child may need additional instruction, practice, encouragement, or time to master core skills in his or her grade.
- Do practice tests with your child. Many practice tests for PARCC, and other state tests, are available online.
- Remember that testing is just one way to evaluate your child's progress, and should be considered along with other factors, such as behavior and attendance.



## How Much Testing Do Maryland Students Undergo?

Many parents and educators are asking this question. The answer begins with the facts. In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly established a Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessment and Testing in Public Schools. The Maryland Department of Education is meeting with officials in every school district to determine exactly what tests are given locally. A diverse team of educators, school leaders, and elected officials are examining the quantity and timing of testing in Maryland. They will report recommendations to Governor Hogan by summer 2016.

LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., Governor

Ch. 421

Chapter 421

(House Bill 452)

AN ACT concerning

**Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to survey, assess, review, and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education **and**, certain county boards of education, **and the General Assembly**, on or before a certain date; requiring the State Board and certain county boards to review and consider the Commission's findings and make certain