



BLUEPRINT BULLETIN

Implementing the next phase of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future

May 2024

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

What is the new College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard? Why is this relevant?

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future has established ensuring all Maryland students are college and career-ready as the north star of Pillar 3 of the legislation, which includes establishing a coherent instructional system with aligned standards, materials, and assessments, initiatives to keep students on track to CCR, a range of CCR pathways, and expanded CTE offerings. The aspiration is to have 100% of 10th graders College and Career-Ready by 2033 to pursue whatever post-CCR pathway they choose. GCPS shares this goal as we work to transform instructional programs to meet the needs of students.

The Maryland State Department of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board's first priority was identifying the foundational skills and knowledge that every student needs in English Language Arts, math, and science (when practicable) to be successful in college, career, and life. In February 2024, Maryland passed regulations to approve the new CCR standard. The standard puts forward two options for students to demonstrate College and Career Readiness. See graphic to the right.

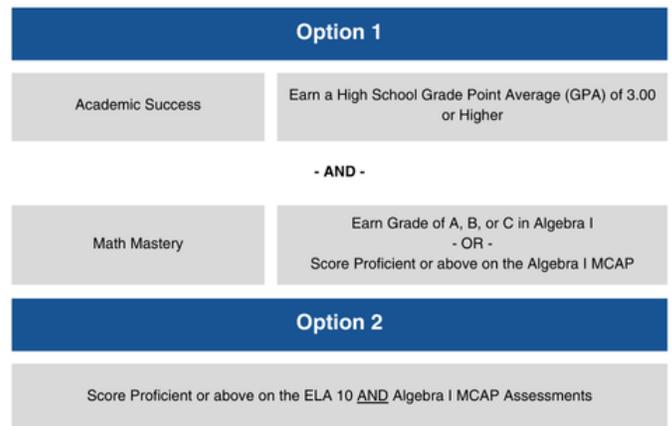
Option 1: Academic Success + Math Mastery as demonstrated by **overall unweighted GPA AND earning a grade of A, B, or C in Algebra I OR proficient score on the Algebra 1 MCAP**

Option 2: Proficient or above on **both the English 10 MCAP** assessment and the **Algebra I MCAP** Assessments.

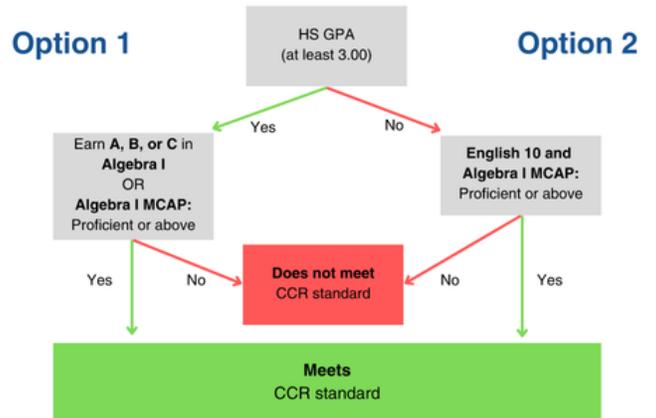
It is important to note that meeting the CCR Standard through Option 1 (GPA and Math Mastery) may only be utilized by students at the end of their 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years. Students at the end of their 9th grade year may not meet the CCR Standard through this option. However, they may achieve CCR through option 2.

ADOPTED COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) STANDARD

CCR STANDARD



CCR STANDARD FLOW CHART



Additionally, to achieve the Math Mastery component of 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.

What is the new College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard? Why is this relevant? (cont.)

Achieving Academic Success through a high school GPA must use the student's unweighted GPA. The unweighted GPA shall be calculated using all courses, not just core content courses. 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.

Implementing the new CCR Standard is meant to provide additional options in the form of multiple measures for students to meet the CCR Standard and not to create unintended harm by removing options from students. Therefore, during the transition period to the new standards, there will be a phase-out of the previous Interim CCR Standard to minimize impact to students. During this transition, students may be designated as meeting CCR through the Interim CCR Standard OR the new CCR Standard at the end of SY 2023-2024 in preparation for SY 2024-2025.

For example, if a student meets the previous Interim CCR Standard at the conclusion of school year 2023-2024 by scoring Proficient on the Geometry MCAP assessment and has previously scored Proficient on the English 10 MCAP assessment, they will be designated as meeting the CCR Standard.

What are the opportunities?

The purpose of the CCR standard is to develop a future-ready workforce to continue to accelerate Maryland's growth by providing

students with essential skills that employers and industry need.

Once a student **meets the CCR standard**, by the end of the 10th grade, they can choose one or more post-CCR pathways that align with their career interests and aptitude at no cost, including:

- **participation in a career pathway**, such as an apprenticeship or other industry recognized credential,
- **dual enrollment in credit and non-credit college courses** with the possibility of earning up to 60 credits or industry certificate before high school graduation, or
- **participation in Advanced Placement pathways.**

If a student **does not meet** the standard by the end of the 10th grade, they will **participate in a CCR Support Pathway** that is designed to help them to meet the CCR standard before they graduate from high school. The CCR Support Pathway is intended to provide students with:

- **Individualized support delivered differently** - Students will not just retake the same course/assessment that did not work for them the first time. Schools will provide them with individualized coordinated support to help them meet the CCR standard before graduation. Support might include credit bearing course work, interventions/tutoring, an individualized education plan, etc.
- **Access to Post-CCR Pathways** to support their career interests and enable them to become CCR before high school graduation

The new CCR Standard is in effect immediately and applies to all eligible students at the end of SY 2023-2024 in preparation for the 2024-2025 school year. The previous Interim CCR Standard is also still in effect at this time. After the conclusion of SY 2024-2025, students will only be able to meet the CCR standard using the newly adopted metrics.

