

## HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS - AR

The High School Assessments are criterion-referenced tests that measure the taught curriculum, as defined by the Core Learning Goals in appropriately aligned credit courses. While most students who successfully complete these courses can be expected to also pass the HSA, some students will not. After every administration of the HSA, parents will be notified of test results. Those students who do not earn a passing score must be given opportunities for remediation and to retake the test until successful. Parents will conference with the principal or designee to develop a plan for remediation to insure successful completion of the HSA requirement. The following guidelines describe the kinds of appropriate assistance to be made available to students.

- I. The student who passes an HSA course has completed an important graduation requirement. The outcome of the assessment dictates his/her next steps.
  - A. PASS the course and PASS the test: The successful student completes two related, yet independent, graduation requirements by passing both the required course, and the HSA. It is expected that a student properly prepared and effectively taught will do so on his/her first attempt.
  - B. PASS the course and FAIL the test: Students with less than a passing score MUST retest if they have not met the combined score of 1602.
    1. Parents will be notified of the opportunities for intervention that are available to their child, and strongly encouraged to partner with the schools in ensuring their child's participation.
    2. When a student has twice failed any HSA, a parent conference will be scheduled to develop an intervention plan for the student. In most cases, this will include scheduling an intervention course (not-for-credit) during the school day in the semester(s) following.
- II. A student who is failing an HSA course at the time the test is given will take the HSA. The final outcome of results will dictate next steps.
  - A. Fail the course and PASS the test: Students who pass the HSA have demonstrated minimum proficiency on the comprehensive, core objectives of the aligned course. Such students may not need to repeat the entire course.

1. A student who earns at least a 60% average and passed the HSA on the *first* administration will be awarded a final grade of 70% (satisfactory achievement), and not be required to repeat the course or do credit recovery.
  2. A student whose final average is at least 50% will be allowed to do credit recovery through computer-aided instruction in summer school or through independent study.
  3. A student whose final average is less than 50% must take Semester 3 (or repeat the entire course) and receive a passing grade in order to earn the credit for the course.
- B. Fail the course and FAIL the test: Students who are unsuccessful in both the course and the test must address both the credit and HSA requirement for graduation. The appropriate next steps depend on the students' demonstrated learning in the course itself.
1. A student who earns at least a 50% in the course, may participate in an intensive HSA Semester 3 course in the summer or during the next school year. Upon successful completion of the course the student will be awarded a content credit, which constitutes credit in the state required course.
  2. A student who earns less than 50% must take Semester 3 during the school year (or repeat the entire course). Upon successful completion of the course the student will be awarded a content credit, which constitutes credit in the state required course.
- III. A student who does not pass all four HSAs, may still meet the state's assessment requirement for graduation if the combined score of all four assessments is at least 1602.
- IV. Students who fail to meet the HSA requirements via I, II or III above, may use the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation, defined by MSDE, to satisfy the state's assessment requirement for graduation.

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