



# Maryland State Assessment Program Updates

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Division of Assessment and Accountability

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# Accountability System and Assessment System

- **Accountability System** – Policy Recommendations
  - Use a 1-to-4 scale
  - Use a weighted-index approach
  - Recognize academic growth and growth of the bottom third of students
  - Revise Progress indicator
  - Eliminate "access to a well-rounded curriculum" indicator
- **Assessment System** – Update
  - NCS Pearson will develop the new assessment system to start in the 2026-2027 school year
  - The new state assessment program will accomplish a set of goals including:
    - Improve technical quality and validity by adopting assessments that meet current psychometric standards, including the transition to multi-stage adaptive testing to better measure student performance across the full range of achievement.
    - Increase equity and accessibility through enhanced accommodation delivery, ensuring more consistent, timely, and appropriate access for students with disabilities and multilingual learners.

# Accountability Changes Timeline

- **Winter 2025-2026**
  - MSDE proposing legislative changes to reduce restrictions that are in statute
  - Amending ESSA plan to remove Access to Well Rounded measure from 2027 accountability
  - Determining amendment potential for CSI/ATSI exit criteria
- **2026 – Accountability**
  - Current system with a few required changes
    - 95% participation & accounting for dropouts
  - Exiting CSI and ATSI
- **2027 – Accountability**
  - New system rollout
  - New assessments for grades 3-8

# Assessment Changes Timeline

- **2026-2027**

- Optional interim assessment pilot – limited reporting (Grades 3-8 ELA, Math)
- Redesigned Grades 3-8 ELA and Math administered

- **2027-2028**

- Optional interim assessment operational (Grades 3-8 ELA, Math)
- Redesigned high school level exams administered (Grade 10 ELA, Life Science, GOVT)
- Redesigned Science (5,8) and Social Studies (8) administered

- **2028-2029**

- Redesigned high school mathematics exams administered
- Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra 2 sunset as courses are replaced by Integrated Algebra