



Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com
www.pssam.org

BILL: House Bill 1019
TITLE: State Board of Education - Public High School Students – Assessments and Graduation Requirements
DATE: February 28, 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 1019 requires all public high school students to be assessed in a certain manner, subject to a certain limitation; requiring the State Board of Education to administer a certain assessment to certain students in certain school years; prohibiting the State Board from using the results of certain assessments for certain purposes; etc.

PSSAM thanks the sponsors and full **supports** House Bill 1019.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) represents a comprehensive revision of Maryland's state accountability plan. Maryland's new plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in 2018 and includes the academic standards and assessment requirements adopted by the State Board of Education. As such, Maryland will continue to administer mathematics, reading/language arts, and science assessments in grades 3 through 12.

Maryland's new assessment program is known as the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). As of July 2018, MCAP will be the overarching umbrella for all Maryland State Assessments (PARCC-new assessment in 2020); High School Assessments; Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA); Alternate Maryland Integrated Science Assessment – (Alt-MISA); Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA); English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA); and finally, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).

Maryland continues to go beyond federal testing requirements by setting passing scores for high school graduation on state tests in Algebra, English, Science, and Government. For many years, the cuts scores were based on Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. In the 2019-2020 school year, brand new tests will be administered in grades preK-12.

PSSAM fully supports legislation that will require a pause in implementing high stakes graduation requirements based on minimum cut scores on state assessments until the new tests are field tested and administered for multiple years. We believe that the new assessments should be end-of-course only tests and not used as a graduation requirement for at least a two-year hiatus until standards are set.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM fully **supports** HB 1019 and requests a favorable committee report.