TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

4. Scoring

Measurement Inc. (MI) has been the scoring vendor for the High School Assessment (HSA) Program since its inception. All student answer books for each HSA administration are processed in MI's central offices in Durham, NC before being sent to its scoring sites in Charlotte, NC (Algebra), Nashville, TN (Biology), Catonsville, MD (English), and Tampa, FL (Geometry, Government). At each site the students' constructed responses are read and scored by certified college graduates who are trained according to the rubric(s) created by Maryland educators and MSDE for each content area. The rubrics vary in scale by content: Algebra/Data Analysis (0-3 and 0-4), Biology (0-4), English 1 (0-4 and 0-6), Geometry (0-3 and 0-4), and Government (0-4).

HSA RUBRIC SCALES		
Content Area	Brief Constructed Responses (BCRs)	Extended Constructed Responses (ECRs)
Algebra/Data Analysis	0-3 points	0-4 points
Biology	0-4 points	none
English 1	0-4 points	0-6-points
Geometry	0-3 points	0-4 points
Government	0-4 points	0-4 points

Following an introduction to the Maryland assessment program and the criteria by which they are to assess the students' work, scorers receive intensive training on the set of items that they are to score. Training materials are assembled from "early return" student responses that have been scored and discussed by rangefinding committees composed of Maryland educators, MI scoring personnel, and MSDE content and scoring staff. The materials consist of a guide, two practice sets, and two qualifying sets. All scorers must achieve a qualifying score of 80% or higher to continue with the HSA scoring project.

Team leaders lead teams of 6-10 scorers each. They meet regularly with the scoring director and the other team leaders to ensure consistency of scoring. Each constructed response for the operational test is read independently by two scorers from different teams, with any nonadjacent scores being resolved by the scoring director of the specific content area. Current and cumulative data on individual and group agreement rates, retraining and validity results, and production status are available daily and on demand for MI and MSDE monitoring purposes. Team leaders retrain any scorers who drift from criteria, but any scorer who does not get back on criteria is released.

After completing the scoring for a given year, MI prepares a technical report of all relevant activities for MSDE. Chapter 4 includes MI's technical reports for the May 2001 administration and the January and May administrations in 2002 and 2003.