

## **Chronology of the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA)**

- August 1989**      **Sondheim Commission on School Performance, a school reform initiative on improving schools through rigorous academic performance standards, submits its report to the Governor and the Maryland State Board of Education.**
- January 1990**      **Maryland School Performance Office begins operations.**
- September 1990**      **Update on MSPAP indicates that grade 11 assessment would be implemented in 1992. This later evolved into the HSA.**
- July 1991**      **Paper for Leadership Team discusses MSPAP grade 11 decisions, which must be made before development can begin.**
- Spring 1992**      **Pilot of five Interdisciplinary Problem-solving Tasks involves 2,000 grade 11 students in 19 high schools in 12 local systems.**
- July 1992**      **Outcome-Based Graduation Requirements Task Force Report presented to the State Board of Education.**
- September 1992**      **State Board hears a report on the proposed direction for a high school assessment.**
- September 1993**      **Performance-based High School Graduation Requirements Task Force Report presented to the State Board.**
- December 1993**      **Public School Standards (COMAR 13A.01.04) become effective. Creation of High School Assessment Task force, Steering Team, Coordinating Team, and Content Teams.**
- March 1994**      **Appointment letters sent to persons selected to serve on High School Assessment Steering Committee.**
- April 1994**      **State Board holds retreat on high school assessment.**
- May 1994**      **High School Assessment Content Teams are selected and begin meeting.**
- October 1994**      **State Board retreat on high school assessment with content team co-chairs. Presentation of draft Core Learning Goals to the State Board.**
- November 1994**      **State Superintendent's Retreat and presentation of models for high school assessment.**

<b>February 1995</b>	<b>State Board hearing on models for conceptualizing the high school assessment.</b>
<b>March 1995</b>	<b>Formal linkage of the University of Maryland System representatives to the Content Teams.</b>
<b>April 1995</b>	<b>Maryland Education Coalition forum on high school assessment.</b>
<b>July 1995</b>	<b>Report of the High School Assessment Task Force to the State Board.</b>
<b>Fall 1995</b>	<b>Establishment of the Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning K-16: an alliance of MSDE, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the University of Maryland System, and the K-16 Workgroup</b>
<b>July 1996</b>	<b>Request for Proposals for the Design of the High School Assessments released by MSDE.</b>
<b>August 1996</b>	<b>HSA Core Learning goals distributed in hard copy form to each local school system office, each principal in public elementary, middle and secondary school, and appropriate department chairs in secondary schools.</b>
<b>September 1996</b>	<b>College Board awarded the HSA test design contract with Educational Testing Service serving as subcontractor.</b>
<b>October 1996</b>	<b>HSA Core Learning Goals on CD-ROM distributed to Deans and Directors of Maryland colleges and universities, all District Superintendents of Schools, Local Accountability Coordinators, and all high school principals.</b>
<b>November 1996</b>	<b>HSA Core Learning Goals on CD-ROM distributed to all Special Education Directors.</b>
<b>January 1997</b>	<b>ETS/College Board present “High School Assessment Design: A report to the State Board of Education. ETS/CB, in collaboration with MSDE, begin conducting public engagement sessions on the HSA across the state.</b>
<b>March 1997</b>	<b>Letter to every parent or guardian of fifth graders enrolled in Maryland Public Schools from the State Superintendent informing them of the High School Assessment Initiative and identifying ways to help them prepare for the tests.</b>

- April-May 1997** High School Assessment Test Specs, Program Specs and Test Administration Specs are written for 12 proposed tests.
- June-July 1997** MSDE releases RFP for the development of the High School Assessments.
- March 1998** MSDE staff, in just 18 months, is involved in more than 400 public engagement sessions across the state.
- May 1998** Testing contractors, CTB/McGraw-Hill and Measurement Incorporated, begin development of the State test items for English 1, geometry, government, and biology.
- December 1998** State Board revises high school implementation schedule: the first item field test will be administered in January and May 2002, a census field test will be administered in January and May 2001, and testing as a requirement for graduation will begin in January and May 2002.
- July 1999** State Board approves new content standards.
- January/May** First item field test administrations of State test items for English I, government, algebra, geometry, and biology.
- January/May 2001** Second round of Field Testing.
- June/July 2001** Contractors and MSDE analyze field test data for item reliability, validity, and implementation readiness and present recommendations to the State Superintendent.
- January/May 2002** HSA becomes operational.