Attendance Rate
Attendance Rate is the percentage of students in school for at least half of the average school day during the school year. Attendance is a school accountability measure for elementary and middle schools. Yearly targets were set for attendance so that by the end of school year 2013-14, the State, schools, and school systems would achieve and maintain an attendance rate of at least 94 percent.

Cohort Graduation Rate
The U.S. Department of Education now requires each state to use an adjusted cohort graduation rate for school accountability. The adjusted cohort graduation rate ensures that all students who entered 9th grade together are counted in the graduation rate at the end of 4 years and at the end of 5 years.

The cohort graduation rate data for 2014 is the 4-year rate for the student cohort entering grade nine for the first time in fall 2010 and graduating no later than 2014. The 2014 5-year rate is the same cohort graduating no later than 2015.

Teacher Qualifications
The percentage of teachers in each category is based on the number of teachers who have credentials and are teaching core academic subjects as defined by the federal government under the No Child Left Behind Act. The core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. Teachers who are teaching other subjects are not included in the totals.


Advanced Professional Certificate: The Advanced Professional Certificate requires three years of satisfactory professional school-related experience, and a master’s degree or a minimum of 36 semester hours of post baccalaureate course work.

Resident Teacher Certificate: The Resident Teacher Certificate is issued to a teacher in an approved alternative preparation program at the request of a local school system superintendent.

Conditional Teacher Certificate: The Conditional Certificate is issued only at the request of a local school system superintendent to an applicant who has a bachelor’s degree but does not meet all certification requirements.

Highly Qualified Teachers: “Highly qualified” is specifically defined by federal law. Teachers must meet minimum requirements both in content knowledge and teaching skills. Teachers must have a bachelor’s degree, full State certification, and demonstrate content knowledge in the subjects they teach.

School Progress and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)
On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education’s (USED) authority to ensure an orderly transition to ESSA, USED will not require States to identify AMOs for school years 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 for USED’s review and approval, nor will USED require States to report performance against AMOs for the 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 school years.

Due to this direction, Maryland will not measure LEAs and schools against AMOs.
Maryland School Assessment (MSA)
The MSA measures what students in grades 5 and 8 know about Science. High school performance is measured by the Biology High School Assessment (HSA). Performance is reported as the percent of students in each grade who achieved the Basic, Proficient, or Advanced standard. All students should be achieving at the Proficient or Advanced standard.

Description of Proficiency Levels

**Science:**
Students show they need more work to attain proficiency. They use minimal supporting evidence, and responses provide little or no synthesis of information.

Students use supporting evidence that is generally complete with some integration of scientific concepts, principles, and/or skills.

Students use scientific evidence to demonstrate a full integration of scientific concepts, principles, and/or skills.

**Biology:**
Students demonstrate a minimal understanding of biology concepts, principles, and/or skills. Student responses indicate limited synthesis of information and understanding of scientific terminology.

Students demonstrate a realistic and rigorous level of achievement by providing evidence of an understanding of biology concepts and the ability to use scientific evidence to generally integrate scientific concepts, principles, and/or skills. Student responses indicate some synthesis of information and understanding of scientific terminology.

Students demonstrate an exemplary level of achievement by providing evidence of a complete understanding of biology concepts and the ability to use scientific evidence to fully integrate scientific concepts, principles, and/or skills. Student responses indicate a complete synthesis of information and understanding of scientific terminology.
Alternate Maryland School Assessment (Alt-MSA)

The Alternate Maryland School Assessment (Alt-MSA) is taken by students with disabilities who cannot take the MSA in Science or PARCC in ELA or Mathematics even with the special accommodations they receive as part of their regular classroom instruction. The test measures the student’s mastery of reading and mathematics content standards or appropriate access skills. Eligible students take the test in grades 3-8 and once during the high school grade band. Performance is reported as the percent of students in each grade who achieved the Basic, Proficient, or Advanced standard.
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<th>Level 3</th>
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**Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**

In 2015 Maryland implemented the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) state assessments in reading and mathematics. The new assessments replace the Maryland School Assessments in English and Mathematics in grades 3-8, and replace the High School Assessments in Algebra and English 10 for all students not graduating in 2015.

**PARCC Performance Level Descriptors (PLD)**

Performance level descriptors for English language arts/literacy and Mathematics describe what a typical student at each level should be able to demonstrate based on his/her command of grade-level standards.

- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations