

ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 10, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Current Grade 12 Students:

The Maryland College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 (Act) requires all public high school students to participate in an assessment that will demonstrate their college and career readiness in both English and mathematics by the end of 11th grade. The Act further requires that local school systems offer support and a reassessment to 12th-grade students who are not yet designated as College and Career Ready. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has provided local school systems with various options for meeting this requirement.

It is critically important to understand that the Act does not change or impact current graduation requirements. Students do not have to be designated as College and Career Ready in order to graduate and receive a Maryland high school diploma.

To comply with the Act, MSDE will accept assessment scores from the SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER, AP, and IB exams; PARCC English 10; and PARCC Algebra 2. Students should have received a CCR Individual Student Report from their school showing their College and Career Readiness status based on the aforementioned data we have available in our system.

Students who do not meet standards in either English or Math must be reassessed in that subject in their senior year. AACPS has chosen to administer the ACCUPLACER, a nationally recognized college placement assessment, as the reassessment tool for those students. The ACCUPLACER, which takes between 30 and 60 minutes to complete, will be administered at no cost to students during regular school hours in February or March of 2017. Schools will notify students who need to participate in the ACCUPLACER assessment. It is important to note that the Act does not require a passing score on the ACCUPLACER in order for a student to graduate.

Prior to taking the ACCUPLACER assessment in February or March, participating seniors will be offered a series of support modules in English and/or mathematics depending on the needs of the student. Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) also offers support opportunities for improving performance on the ACCUPLACER assessment.

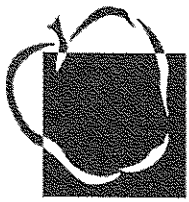
More information about the support modules, the ACCUPLACER assessment, and associated free study guides is available at www.aacpublicschools.org/aacps2/ccr/college/. Specific questions about your student taking the ACCUPLACER assessment can be answered by the Testing Coordinator or School Counselor at your child's school. General questions about the Act and AACPS' plan can be directed to the AACPS Testing Office at 410-222-5159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Arlotto".

George Arlotto, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

GA/bm



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean to be “College and Career Ready (CCR)?”

CCR is an indication that a student will be prepared to take collegiate credit-bearing courses in Maryland. There are currently six different assessments that can be used to earn the CCR designation. Students need a minimum score on both a mathematics assessment **and** an English assessment to be designated as CCR in each of these areas. These assessments are: PARCC, SAT, ACT, AP, IB, and ACCUPLACER. Acceptable CCR scores can be found on the Individual Student Report as well as at <http://www.aacpublicschools.org/aacps2/ccr/options.pdf>.

If my student is not identified as CCR, can he or she still graduate from high school?

Yes. The CCR designation is not connected to graduation requirements.

What if my student’s Individual Student Report does not reflect one of my student’s ACT or SAT scores that meets CCR?

Have the student take the official score report to the school counselor, who will then send a copy to Central Office.

What assessment will be used to re-test my student if he or she is not designated as CCR by the end of 11th grade?

Each spring, AACPS will administer the ACCUPLACER, during the school day, to any senior who is not designated as CCR. A student may also choose to take the SAT or ACT on his or her own. Students who earn the minimum passing score on the English and math sections then will be designated as CCR.

What is the ACCUPLACER assessment and what does it measure?

The ACCUPLACER is a college placement exam used by most community colleges in the United States to determine a student’s readiness for credit-bearing college courses. Students are assessed in four areas: Elementary Algebra, College Level Math, Reading, and Sentence Skills.

How can my student prepare for the ACCUPLACER?

Students in 12th grade English and mathematics courses will have some exposure to ACCUPLACER-assessed materials through their regular instruction. Teachers will provide students with opportunities to practice with ACCUPLACER type questions and materials. Students who are not CCR should also access and use the ACCUPLACER preparation materials located on <http://www.aacpublicschools.org/aacps2/ccr/college/>.