



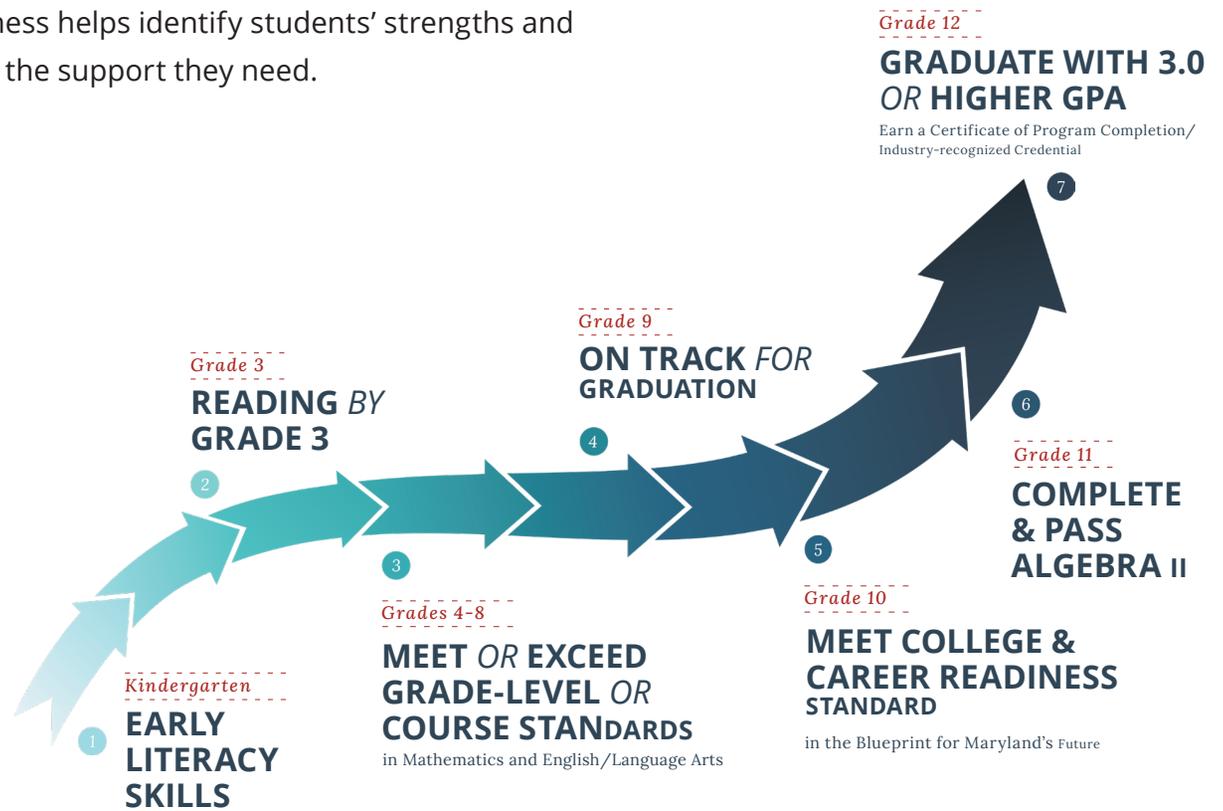
The Pathway to College, Career and Community Readiness

MCPS created a new guide to help families, students and teachers work together to ensure student success.

The Pathway to College, Career and Community Readiness helps identify students' strengths and areas of improvement to ensure each student receives the support they need.

Here's how it works:

- » The milestones described below will be used to address any learning gaps before students transition to a new grade level, college or the workforce.
- » Parents will receive information about whether their child is meeting or not meeting these specific benchmarks.
- » School staff, students and families will meet together to decide the best way to help the student succeed.
- » In addition to academic benchmarks, schools will also provide opportunities for students to cultivate core competencies and skills to prepare them for life after high school.



(See glossary for more details on assessments mentioned in this document)



Elementary School

KINDERGARTEN

MILESTONE: EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Research shows children who develop strong literacy skills in their early years perform better academically throughout their schooling years.</p> <p>Skills such as letter recognition, building sight words and learning to read and write, lay the foundation for future academic success</p>	<p>Teachers measure the child's reading skills through a test called "DIBELS".</p> <p>The test is given three times during the school year; fall, winter and spring.</p> <p>Children should have a "composite score" of 420 or higher</p>	<p>What areas of reading does my child need additional support or improvement based on their score?</p> <p>What can I do at home to support my child's reading skills?</p> <p>What strategies are the school using to address any reading difficulties?</p>

GRADE 3

MILESTONE: READING BY GRADE 3

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Reading well by the end of Grade 3 is an essential educational benchmark. It is a foundation for future academic success. During this period, children transition from learning to read to reading to learn.</p>	<p>All grade 3 students take a test called "MAP-R".</p> <p>Students should have a 'lexile' score of 600L or higher.</p>	<p>Can you provide books that are appropriate for my child's range?</p> <p>Is my child meeting the district measure?</p> <p>What can I do at home to support my student?</p> <p>How will the school address any reading difficulties?</p>

GRADES 4 AND 5

MILESTONE: PROFICIENT IN MATH AND ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS

Why is this important?	How is this measured?	What questions can you ask your teacher?
<p>Beginning in Grade 4, students are reading to learn. They apply skills gained in other content areas like math to think critically and solve problems.</p>	<p>In grades 4 and 5, students take tests in Math and English Language Arts called the <i>Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)</i> test.</p> <p>The tests are given in the Spring.</p> <p>Students should score a 3 or higher.</p>	<p>What specific literacy and math skills are expected of my child at their current grade level?</p> <p>What extra support does the school offer?</p> <p>How can I support my child's literacy and math development at home to ensure they meet or exceed the state standards?</p> <p>What strategies are used to help my child meet the state literacy and math standards?</p>

ASSESSMENTS GLOSSARY

DIBELS - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of literacy skills. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures that can be used to regularly detect risk and monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills in kindergarten through eighth grade.

MAP-R - Measures of Academic Progress-Reading (MAP-R) provides an assessment of a student's skill level in the different reading achievement areas. These multiple assessments allow educators to measure academic growth in reading over time.

Lexile - Lexile is a scientifically-based Framework for Reading. The measures give a more precise measure of reading comprehension. A Lexile Reader Measure, used by MCPS, represents a student's reading ability on the Lexile scale.

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) - The new MCAP tests are designed to assess students on mastery of Maryland's College and Career Readiness standards to ensure that all students are progressing and receiving the necessary support for remediation and enrichment.