

## Glossary of Common Assessment Terms

**Advanced Placement (AP)** — A program of challenging college-level courses available to students in high school.

**Alternate Maryland Integrate Science Assessment (Alt-MISA)** — State Science test designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the MISA.

**Brief Constructed Response (BCR)** — A type of item on a test that requires a student to provide a short written answer.

**Disaggregated Data** — Data reported by subcategory, for example grade level, gender, or race/ethnicity.

**English Language Learners (EL)** — Students with a primary or home language other than English and limited or no age-appropriate ability to understand, speak, read or write English.

**Enrollment** — The number of students enrolled as of September 30 in grades pre-kindergarten through 12, including non-graded special education students.

**Essential Curriculum** — Defines skills and competencies that all FCPS students are expected to achieve by high school graduation: effective communication, problem solving and critical thinking, social cooperation and self-discipline, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning.

**Extended Constructed Response (ECR)** — A type of item on a test that requires a student to provide an extended written answer usually in two or more paragraphs.

**Free/Reduced-Price Meals (FARM)** — Category of students whose applications meet the United States Department of Agriculture's family size and income guidelines to qualify them for school lunch and/or breakfast at no or low cost.

**Grade-Level Proficiency** — The level of academic performance sufficient for a student to succeed at the next level of school or next level of a course.

**High School Assessments (HSA)** — End-of-course tests that students take as they complete high school level courses in Algebra 1, Government, Science, and English 10. Passing or participating in each HSA is a graduation requirement.

**International Baccalaureate (IB)** — A demanding and comprehensive two-year international curriculum for a pre-university diploma program. The IB program has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment and helps students gain access to the world's leading universities. Interventions — A series of research-based strategies designed to assist students with specific academic difficulties.

**Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)** — The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) encompasses all state assessments and is designed to provide information that helps strengthen instruction and improve performance so that graduates are ready to move into the workforce or postsecondary studies.

**MCAP ELA/Literacy and Mathematics** — English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics assessments are given in grades 3-8 and in designated high school courses. Taking the MCAP Algebra 1 and English 10 exams is a graduation requirement.

**Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)** — State tests designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in MCAP ELA/Literacy and Mathematics assessments.

**Norm-Referenced Test (NRT)** — A test that measures a student's academic achievement as compared to students in the same grade across the nation.

**Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)** — A standardized test administered by high schools across the country to any 10th or 11th grader. It is considered to be a practice and diagnostic test for the SAT and is the basis for qualification in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**SAT** — A national college entrance examination designed to measure critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills.

**Scale Score** — Describes a student's achievement within a range of possible scores.

**Selected Responses (SR)** — A type of item on a test that requires a student to select an answer from usually four different answer choices.

**Student Information System (SIS)** — A computerized student database containing a variety of data and information, including enrollment, attendance, academic grades and test scores.

**Title I** — A federal initiative to provide supplemental instructional services, with emphasis on reading and mathematics, to meet student needs in schools with a high concentration of low-income families.