



PRESS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org

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**MARCH 3, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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STUDENTS, PARENTS BENEFIT FROM TRANSLATION OF HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PUBLICATION

Maryland Offers HSA Information in 13 Languages

Prince George's County Public Schools Chief André J. Hornsby today applauded the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for publishing its parent publication, "Maryland High School Assessments and Your Child," and making it available online in 13 languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

"In a county as diverse as ours, this can be an invaluable tool for our parents and children when preparing for important annual state assessment exams," Dr. Hornsby said. "We appreciate this investment in preparing all students for academic success."

The deadline is March 25 for submission of pretest files for High School Assessment (HSA) exams in May. The HSAs test students' knowledge and skills in the areas of English (May 23), Government (May 24), Geometry (May 25), Biology (May 26), and Algebra (May 27).

To access the State parent publication online, log on to the MSDE web site at www.marylandpublicschools.org. From the home page, scroll down to see the "Educational Services" heading on the right-hand side of the page. Click on the link for "Foreign-Language Translations."

"Maryland High School Assessments and Your Child" explains Maryland's new testing and graduation requirements and how they affect students. This publication also answers parents' frequently asked questions about the HSAs. Beginning with the graduating class of 2009—this school year's eighth-graders—students must pass the High School Assessments in English, algebra/data analysis, biology, and government to earn a Maryland high school diploma.

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In Prince George's County, more than 7,000 children are enrolled in special instructional programs that teach English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Parents and interested citizens without Internet access can request single copies of "Maryland High School Assessments and Your Child" in English or in any of the translated languages. Contact the Office of Academic Policy at 410-767-0600.

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