

TRANSITIONS

A GUIDE FOR THE CLASS OF

2020



BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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1. Student Graduation Status

Any student who is potentially eligible to graduate in June 2020 will be hearing from his/her school counselor if this has not already occurred. Students who have questions, need additional support, or have not heard from their guidance counselor can reach out to their school counselor/college advisor or contact the [virtual counselor](#).

2. Senior Projects: General Information

As we move to a different format for instruction and a different way of delivering it, adults and students must navigate significant challenges. With this in mind, City Schools has established 4th quarter senior projects as a way to establish consistent expectations and to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered content standards.

a. Purpose

Senior Projects have been developed to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the standards addressed by the content areas they have studied this year. Successful completion of a project will result in the improvement of the student's final grade.

b. Content Bucket Organization

Senior Projects are available and have been arranged in "content buckets." This means a student taking more than one course in a particular content area (i.e., English IV and African American Literature or English IV and English III) must complete only one ELA project.

c. Content Bucket Category Names

- Computer Science
- CTE
- ELA (English Language Arts)
- Health P.E.
- ESOL
- Fine Arts and Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- World and Classical Languages

For students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), APEX, or Dual Enrollment see the appropriate section below.

d. Course List

A chart designating which courses are included under which content buckets can be accessed by clicking the links: [Search by Course](#) or [Search by Name](#)

e. Project Access

All projects can be accessed by clicking the link: [Click here](#)

f. Procedures and Due Dates

- Projects have been designed to take students six weeks.
- Students should submit assignments to their teachers weekly.
- Each project will have its own rubric.
- Students can earn between five and ten points, to be added to their final grades in relevant courses, through successful completion of a project.

g. Questions

If you have any questions or don't see a course listed, please contact your teacher to ensure that you are completing the correct project.

3. PTECH and Dual Enrollment

a. PTECH Guidance

P-TECH students with questions about their college courses should reach out to their PTECH school leaders.

- Dunbar: Ms. Wise (MNWise@bcps.k12.md.us)
- Carver: Ms. Bush (LBush@bcps.k12.md.us)
- New Era Academy: Mr. Cottman (SCottman@bcps.k12.md.us)
- Baltimore City Community College (BCCC): Jayda Williams (JAWilliams@bccc.edu)

b. Dual Enrollment Guidance

Dual enrollment instruction is still occurring. Our primary University partners (Baltimore City Community College and University of Baltimore) are conducting courses through their university-specific online learning modules. The University partners have attempted to reach out to all enrolled students to inform of the continuation of instruction. If you have a student enrolled in a dual enrollment course and have questions about the instructional model, please reach out to:

- Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), Dr. Liesel Jones (LJones@bccc.edu).
- University of Baltimore (UB), John Brenner (Jbrenner@ubalt.edu).

c. Grading

Students are receiving grades for dual enrollment coursework as follows.

- College Transcripts: Students will receive a letter grade on their transcript to allow completed courses to be transferred to four-year schools.
- City Schools Transcripts: In alignment with City Schools COVID-19 grading practices, the students will receive either a pass or an NTQ if they fail to receive a credit-bearing grade from the college.

d. Course Withdrawal

If students are unable to continue with their education, they may withdraw from the courses by 4/23.

Two actions must occur to do so:

- An email from the school counselor with the student and Principal cc'd to John Brenner (jbrenner@utbaltubalt.edu) for University of Baltimore and Dr. Liesl Jones (LJones@bccc.edu) for BCCC.
- Once the email is sent, the student should be removed from the course entirely on Infinite Campus and the course should not appear on the City School's transcript as well.
- Students in this scenario would receive a W on their BCCC transcript and would have the course entirely removed from their UB transcript.

e. Technology Access

There is a plan for students to get access to technology, so they can complete their dual enrollment course. City Schools is currently devising a technology distribution strategy that prioritizes seniors. If you have a student who needs technology access to complete a dual enrollment course, please email Mavis Jackson (MJJackson@bcps.k12.md.us) and either John Brenner, University of Baltimore (JBrenner@ubalt.edu), or Dr. Liesl Jones, Baltimore City Community College (LJones@bccc.edu). They will work together to identify a laptop.

f. Dual Enrollment Courses as Graduation Requirement

Seniors currently enrolled in a dual enrollment course needed for graduation should either complete their dual enrollment courses, or if there are technology limitations, they may withdraw and complete a Senior Project in the content area bucket where the dual enrollment course should fall. In this case, students should reach out to their school counselor to correct their enrollment.

g. Grade Reporting

Both universities have committed to providing senior grades City Schools, counselors and central office by the district's currently scheduled senior grading window.

h. Questions

School leadership and school counselors should assist in getting a message to students and parents about dual enrollment and the universities' willingness to be flexible and supportive to help students succeed in their online college coursework and the importance of completing the courses. Do not hesitate to reach out to jbrenner@ubalt.edu, or Liesel Jones, LJones@bccc.edu (BCCC) with any questions.

4. Advanced Placement (AP)

Students have invested so much time and energy this year to expand their content knowledge but more importantly to broaden their horizons as scholars. Students in AP courses will still have the opportunity to take their AP exams and possibly earn college credits.

a. Email Address

The College Board will use students' self-reported email addresses to communicate with them and to provide them with their AP Exam access codes next month. Students should make sure that they are checking that email account for updates.

b. Exam Date Confirmation

Students should confirm with your AP teacher(s) the specific date and time of their online AP exam(s). All tests will be administered between May 11th and May 22nd.

c. Exam Content:

Students should review the specifics of the modified content and format for their specific AP exam(s) with their AP teacher(s).

d. Exam Time

All AP exams are limited to 50 minutes--45 minutes of testing time and 5 minutes of time to upload the answer(s).

e. Start Times

Starting times of exams are not flexible, so students should be certain to allow themselves about 15 minutes to be ready to log in prior to the start of the exact exam window.

f. Exam Violation

Communicating with anyone, face-to-face or virtually, during the exam is a testing violation and would be reported to colleges as such.

g. Exam Simulation

College Board will share an online simulation with teachers in late April so that students can practice using the testing platform. Students should be sure to practice within a few days of receiving the link from their teachers.

h. Exam Updates

Students and their families can review all the relevant testing updates by visiting apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/educators/taking-the-exams/ap-exam-schedule

i. Questions

Students should direct all exam questions to their AP teacher, who will either answer the question directly or seek out guidance and then respond.



5. Career and Technology Education (CTE)

As with other courses, we will continue to hold CTE courses virtually. Because each pathway has different requirements, students should reach out to their teachers with any questions. We recognize with school buildings closed, classes will not be able to access many of the tools and equipment needed for instruction; however, teachers will still be providing content that will support students toward earning certifications. Here are a few key notes as we make the transition to distance learning for CTE:

a. Virtual CTE Courses

As with other courses, we will continue to hold CTE courses virtually. Because each pathway has different requirements, students should reach out to their teachers with any questions. We recognize with school buildings closed, classes will not be able to access many of the tools and equipment needed for instruction; however, teachers will still be providing content that will support students toward earning certifications.

b. Weekly Project

Instruction will be organized around weekly projects that will help students build or solidify their skills (10 projects through the end of the academic year for 9th-11th grades; 6 projects for seniors).

c. Communication

Teachers will be sharing projects and timelines with students.

d. Certifications

We know that students have been working toward certification, and our goal is to help students continue to prepare for their certifications. Some certifications may be completed online during this time; others may need to wait until school buildings reopen. The district is working to extend certification opportunities into the next academic year to support students in this process.

e. Plans After High School

Many students will want to pursue work, apprenticeships, or college after graduation. Students should connect with their teacher, school counselor, or the district virtual counselor to discuss how to plan for the next steps.

6. Intervention and Support

To ensure that students are on track to graduate and increase students' success, schools will be providing a variety of interventions, which might include:

a. Mentoring

A mentor (adult, teacher, or administrator) may provide guidance, motivation, emotional support, and role modeling to support online learning and senior projects

b. Check & Connect (via phone, text, e-mail, social media, etc.)

A mentor or school staff may connect with a student weekly via phone, e-mail or social media. He/She will follow-up on academic progress and support with interventions based on student needs

c. Tutoring

Individuals provide academic additional assistance to students through either one-on-one and/or small group session

d. Re-teaching

Strategy used by teachers to support students who have difficulty understanding concepts by "teaching those concepts again" that were not previously mastered

e. Homework Hotline

443-984-2001, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

f. Free tutoring

For students via on the phone and/or online chat

g. Writers Workshops

Series of student centered workshops for supporting writing based on the idea that they will receive guidance from an experienced writer who will provide various mini-lessons to support writing fundamentals.

h. Virtual Coach Class

It's a shortened class where students can receive remediation around unmet standards or receive additional support from a certified teacher

7. Quarter 4 and Final Grades

Quarter 4 and final grade information and updates will be provided on the City School's Website LINK....

8. Post-Secondary Transition

Schools are ready to support seniors to their next step.

a. All Hands on Deck

Our goal is for every graduating senior to have a tangible post-secondary plan. Every school counselor, administrator, college advisor, teacher, and staff person will work collaboratively to ensure our students leave with a specific plan for college, the workforce, military, or training/apprenticeship programs.

b. Virtual School Counselor

If students do not know how to reach out to their school counselor or college advisor, they can contact the virtual counselor, and he or she can help or direct them to the appropriate person.

c. Post-Secondary Options

Students have many post-secondary options, and we want to make sure that families are following all the steps for each process. Students who have questions or need additional support can reach out to their school counselor/college advisor or contact the virtual counselor:

Two-year/Four-year College:

Complete a college application, take placement test, complete a FAFSA, add colleges to the FAFSA, find and apply for scholarships, complete the FAFSA verification process with the college (if there is a drastic change to your financial situation, reach out to the college for additional financial aid), conduct virtual college tours, review-compare-accept/decline financial aid, develop a class schedule, pay enrollment/housing deposits (varies by school)

- <https://www.studentaid.gov>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

Training/Apprenticeship Program:

Complete the application process, take placement test, complete financial aid process (if applicable), follow up with the program about a start date

- <https://www.bmoreg2c.com>
- <https://www.yearup.org>
- <https://www.bccc.edu/Page/1126>

Military

- Contact military recruiter, take and pass the ASVAB, pass physical at MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), meet with a MEPS career counselor to determine a career, take the oath of enlistment, and receive orders with Basic Training report date.
- <https://www.march2success.com>
- <https://www.usa.gov/join-military>

Workforce

- Develop a comprehensive resume, practice interviewing skills, conduct job search, develop a customized cover letter, follow-up with employers, compare offer letters
- <https://moed.baltimorecity.gov>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/Employment/employment.aspx>



9. Additional Info

a. SAT

City Schools will not be administering the Spring School Day SAT this year. The next test may be in June, based on a College Board notification. Please visit www.collegeboard.org for more information

b. Proms and other activities

Based on the Governor's orders and CDC recommendations regarding gatherings of more than ten people, all proms have been postponed. Updates will be shared with families as new information is released. Final updates will be shared not later than May 8th.

c. Exams

Senior exams have been canceled. Seniors should complete Senior Projects in lieu of taking final exams.

d. Graduation Ceremonies

Based on the Governor's orders and CDC recommendations regarding gatherings of more than ten people, all graduations have been postponed. We will update families as new information is released. We are currently looking at options to ensure that every graduate is celebrated.

e. Diplomas and Transcripts

Diplomas will be available for pick-up from your schools once schools have been given the all clear to re-enter schools for regular operations by MSDE and the Governor's orders. Final official transcripts will be sent electronically directly to colleges and employers for verification of graduation.