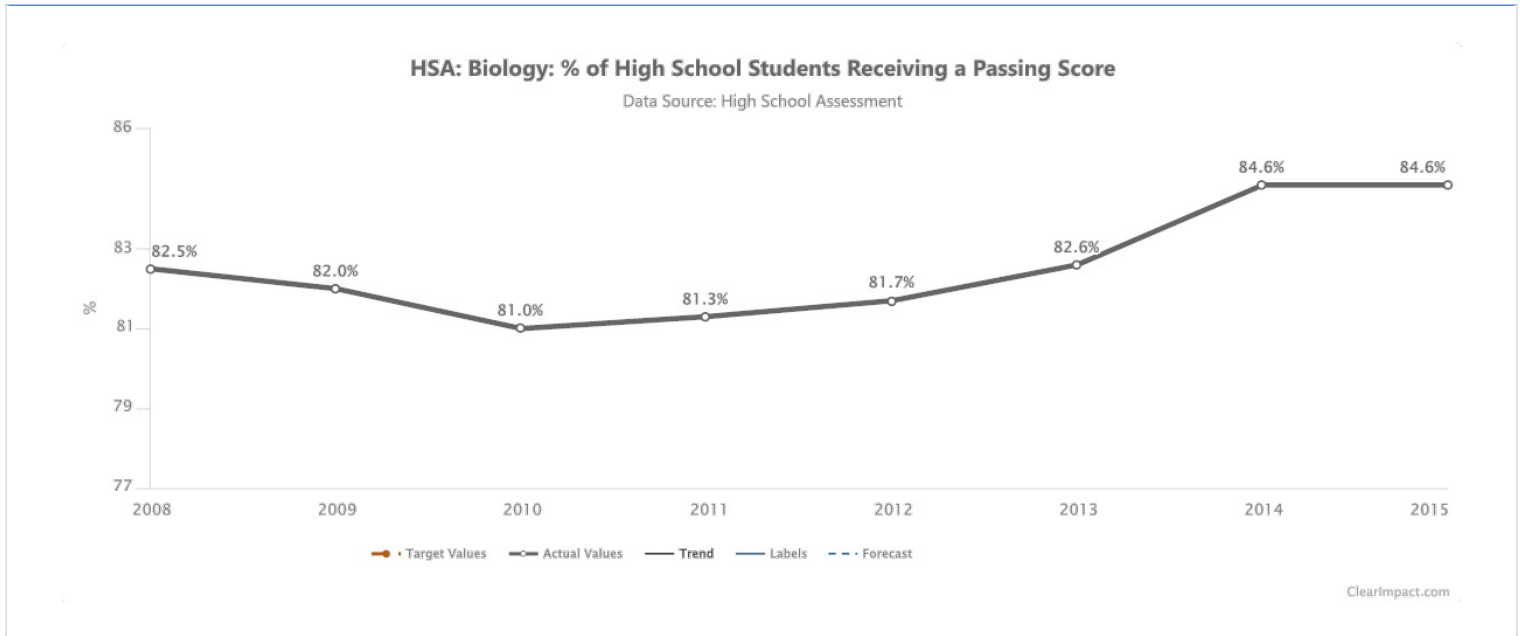


## R Children are Successful in School (Statewide)

### I HSA: Biology: % of High School Students Receiving a Passing Score



### Story Behind the Curve

The achievement of minimum academic standards affects graduation, adult achievement, future academic pursuits, and ultimately contributes to the competitiveness of Maryland's workforce. Students take each High School Assessment (HSA) at the completion of the corresponding course. Accordingly, students may take these exams during any high school grade. The English 2 HSA replaced the English 1 HSA in Academic Year 2005. In 2004, the State Board of Education ruled that, beginning with the class of 2009, public school students must pass the High School Assessments (HSA) to graduate.

On April 24, 2012, the State Board approved the reinstatement of the Government HSA as a graduation requirement. The entering 9th graders in the 2013-2014 school year are required to pass or obtain a combined score of 1602 on the four high school assessments, algebra/data analysis, English, biology, and government to meet the graduation requirement.

### What Works

Each assessment test covers about 60% of a course's content, and takes approximately two and one-half to three hours to complete. In 2015, the percentage of students passing in Algebra decreased slightly to 83.7%, the Biology subject test remained the same at 84.6%, and English decreased slightly

from 2014 to 80.9%. For students who do not pass the HSA, additional instruction is available through the local school systems and students may retake the assessment multiple times. For students unable to pass the HSA, the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation offers alternatives to the assessment.

Maryland implemented the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career \(PARCC\)](#) assessments beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. The HSA exams in English 10 and Algebra/Data Analysis will be replaced by PARCC assessments in English 10 and Algebra. The 2014-2015 was the last year for the administration of the English 10 and Algebra/Data Analysis assessments. As in previous years, however, all students must still pass the Government and Biology HSAs in order to graduate. Achievement information for schools, school systems, and the State will continue to be published in the annual [Maryland Report Card](#).

## Data Discussion

The percent of public school students in grades 9 through 12 performing at the passing level on Biology Maryland High School Assessment (HSA).