

High School Plus Overview

High School Plus is a new program that allows students who have failed courses required for graduation to retake these courses for credit in their home schools. There are three components of HS Plus:

- Retaking classes to regain credit after the regular school day
- Repeating classes during the school day as part of a child's regular schedule
- Credit Recovery

For this academic year, all high schools in Montgomery County must participate in offering an after school program that allows students to retake classes for credit and offering students the ability to repeat classes to regain credit during the regular school day. The Credit Recovery may only be offered for specific MCPS courses at this time and implementation is optional and a decision made by the administration.

Participant eligibility

In 2007-08, students in 9th or 10th grade who have been identified to need to retake classes for credit, are eligible for High School Plus at their home school. Students in 9th and 10th grade who cannot regain credit through HS Plus will not be allowed to attend Evening School.

This year, Regional Evening High School, located at Montgomery Blair High School, only serves students in Grade 11 and Grade 12 with courses for credit recovery or original credit. Schools can admit upper class students into HS Plus.

Instruction

High schools can tailor the course offerings to meet the needs of their students. Students can retake classes for credit during the regular school day (in place of an elective) or after school. HS School Plus classes follow all MCPS policies, regulations, and procedures. Class size requirements follow MCPS policies. High schools may partner to offer classes. These decisions are worked out locally.

A special educator will be available to meet the needs of students with 504 plans and IEPs.

There is no fee for HS Plus. All textbooks will be provided.

Grading, Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility is determined by the most recent quarter marking period GPA. Retaking classes as well as participation in credit recovery does not change the eligibility status of students. Students will receive interims and grading reports on the same schedule as other classes. Parents will be able to access student grade information online.

For more information visit the MCPS website for HS Plus and look at the Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/extendedhours/highschoolplus/faq.shtm>

Challenges

- How many students in each school are being served with this program as compared with the number who need to regain credit in specific disciplines?
- Will schools be able to attract the teachers needed to offer courses after school?
- Will the limited number of courses offered meet the needs of students?
- Will HS Plus meet the needs of all students, those who lose credit because they do not attend class (LC) versus students who do not master the material?
- How does this program help students who did not pass the HSA but passed the course?
- What is the timetable or decision tree to expand HS Plus to offer classes for original credit?