

The board believes that an effective testing and assessment program evaluates the progress of individual students and helps ensure that educational goals and objectives are being met for every child. A testing program also assists in the continued refinement of the instructional program. In addition, data from tests and assessments provide measures of student learning that are useful for evaluating educator effectiveness.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the testing program contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it. Efforts also will be made to use only culture-free or culture-fair tests in order to ensure that measurements are reasonably accurate.

A. ADMINISTRATION OF TESTS, SCREENINGS, AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS

The superintendent shall provide for the proper administration of all state-required tests, screenings, and other assessments and any state-required remedial instruction and/or retesting in accordance with all requirements established by law or the State Board of Education. The superintendent, in consultation with the school principals, shall determine how results from such measures will be used in determining students' final grades, provided that the requirements described in Section B, below, and any other applicable state requirements are met.

The superintendent shall provide for the online administration of state-required tests to the extent required by the State Board of Education or the Department of Public Instruction, and otherwise as feasible within available resources. The superintendent shall keep the board informed of any resources or other measures needed to support online test administration.

Students may participate in field testing and other sample testing as designated by the State Board or the Department of Public Instruction.

The superintendent shall develop security and administration procedures for the state testing program and other assessments that are consistent with State Board of Education requirements and relevant law. The superintendent shall ensure that all relevant personnel are instructed in such procedures. All testing personnel, teachers, and school administrators are required to be familiar with and adhere to all applicable testing manuals, handbooks, and guides, including the Testing Code of Ethics, for state and locally-required tests. Failure to follow procedures may result in disciplinary sanctions, including termination or revocation of administrative and/or teaching licenses.

B. HIGH SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END-OF-COURSE TESTING

High school students, as well as middle school students enrolled in high school level courses, must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests, NC Final Exams, and Career and Technical Education State Assessments (CTE Post-Assessments) required by the State

Board of Education. Results from all operational EOC assessments will account for 25% of the student's final grade in each respective course with the exception of:

- students following the Occupational Course of Study Pathway
- English Learner (EL) students in their first year in a U.S. school; and
- effective with the 2018-19 school year and beyond, all students enrolled in a course during the initial implementation year of the new assessment for that course where scores are not immediately available due to standard setting.

For these exceptions, available assessment data may be used in the calculation of the student's final grade.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Exam shall be required for all students enrolled in any AP course.

In high school courses where the State Board of Education requires a final examination, such as an EOC test, an NC Final Exam, or a CTE Post-Assessment, the state test will count as the final examination for the course. In high school courses where there is no final examination required by the State Board of Education, the board requires a final examination to be administered at the end of the course, and such final examination will count as twenty-five percent (25%) of a student's final grade in the course.

C. MIDDLE SCHOOL FINAL EXAMS AND END-OF-GRADE TESTING

Middle school students must take all end-of-grade (EOG) tests and NC Final Exams required by the State Board of Education. The results of EOG tests and NC Final Exams will count as twenty percent (20%) of a student's final grade in each middle school course for which there is an EOG test or NC Final Exam. Middle school EOG test results will be based on converted scale scores; however, if middle school EOG test results and converted scale scores are not available when final grades are calculated, the results will not be included in students' final grades.

D. MINIMIZING TIME SPENT TESTING

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that the time students spend taking standardized state and local tests and the frequency of field testing at a particular school are minimized. Specifically, the superintendent shall ensure the following.

1. Schools will devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing current student learning.
2. Students will not be subject to field tests or national tests during the two-week period preceding their school's administration of end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests, or regularly scheduled final exams.
3. No school will participate in more than two field tests at any particular grade level during a school year.

4. All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) or other applicable law, and all final exams for courses will be administered within the final ten instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days of the semester for semester courses. Exceptions will be permitted on an individual basis to accommodate a student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan; for the administration of final exams for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at designated times; for make-up testing; and as otherwise permitted by the Department of Public Instruction.

Legal References: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, -h; 34 C.F.R. pt. 99; G.S. 115C, art. 10A; 115C-47, -83.5, -83.6, -174.11, -174.12, -174.13, -174.15, -174.22, -174.25, -276, -288, -307, -402.5; State Board of Education Policy series TEST and GRAD; EVAL-006, EVAL-025 through -031

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Student Records (policy 4700), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350)

Other References: *NC Final Exams Test Administrators' Guides*, available at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/testing/common-exams/>; *North Carolina Test Coordinators' Policies and Procedures Handbook*, available at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/policies/generalinfo>

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