



# CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS

Committed to Excellence  Focused on Success

August 2013

## End of Course Test “Test-Out” Guidance Letter

The purpose of this guidance letter is to provide you information regarding the opportunity for students to receive course credit by demonstrating subject area competency through the End of Course Tests (EOCT).

As provided for in amendments to State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 (AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES) adopted by the Board in April 2013, the opportunity exists for students to “test-out” of any course for which there is an associated EOCT and earn credit for the course through that process.

Under the provisions of the amended rule and guidelines published by the Georgia Department of Education’s (GaDOE) Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, local boards of education shall award course credit to students who reach the performance level of Exceeds on an EOCT taken prior to taking the course. For example, a student may attempt the Biology EOCT prior to taking the course. If the student reaches the performance level of Exceeds, the Carroll County Board of Education shall award the student the Biology course credit. A student may test-out of any course that has an associated EOCT. As stated in the Rule, students may earn no more than three units of credit by demonstrating subject area competency in this fashion.

### Student Eligibility:

Students must meet the following requirements to exercise this option:

1. Not currently or previously enrolled in the course;
2. Have earned a grade of B or better in the most recent course that is the same content area of the course for which the student is attempting the EOCT;
3. Received a teacher recommendation from the teacher of the most recent course in the same content area (or, if not available, a teacher in the same content area with knowledge of the student’s academic achievement) for which the student is attempting the EOCT; and
4. Received parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age.
5. Eligible students are only allowed **one opportunity per course** to demonstrate subject area competency (score of Exceeds).

**Costs:**

A fee of \$50.00 must be pre-paid to the Carroll County Board of Education prior to testing. There will be no cost to students who meet the eligibility criteria and achieve the Exceeds performance level. In this case, the pre-payment fee will be refunded/returned. Students who fail to achieve the Exceeds performance level will incur the fee of \$50.00 and payment will not be refunded/returned.

**Availability:**

The opportunity for students to test-out will be offered during the following EOCT Mid-Month windows: August 19-23, 2013; September 16-20, 2013; March 3-7, 2014. All test administrations will be conducted online.

**Important Points for Consideration:**

1. If a student is considering participation in any NCAA sport once they enter college, the NCAA Clearinghouse currently does not accept any credits through a "Test-Out" option, which could make the student in-eligible to participate in sports at the collegiate level.
2. If the student scores in the "Exceeds" category on the EOCT, the course will be added to the students transcript and the grade conversion score obtained on the EOCT would become the grade the student earns for the course.
3. If the student takes the EOCT and **does not** score in the "Exceeds" category, the student **does not** get the \$50 refund and the student will have to take the course and "retake" the EOCT at the end of the course.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Dr. Dana Riley, Carroll County Board of Education, at 770-832-3568.

Pending Board Approval August 15, 2013