

EOCT Test-Out Information

As provided for in amendments to **State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15** adopted by the State 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 if a performance level of **Exceeds** is achieved. **Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this option:**

- Not currently or previously enrolled in the course nor currently or previously enrolled in a higher level course;
- 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;
- 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**
- Received parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age.

The fee to test is \$50.00, which will be refunded if a performance level score of Exceeds is achieved on the test. The EOCT test-out option will be available for eligible students in 2013-14 during the March 3-6, 2014 and June 16-20, 2014 Mid-month administrations.

Schools should carefully consider which students would benefit from such an opportunity and advise accordingly. As part of the advisement process, schools should consider the likelihood for success in future courses that may require knowledge and skills that are inherent within the course. In addition, the student’s post-secondary plans and needs must be considered. The test-out option should not be exercised for students without deliberation and clear evidence of the likelihood of student success both on the test itself and in future coursework/endeavors. Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria above must not be assessed for this purpose.

Schools should involve case managers and/or department chairs for SWDs.

It is important to understand:

- Students may **be afforded only one opportunity per course** to demonstrate subject area competency.
- As stated in the Rule, **students may earn no more than three units of credit** by demonstrating subject area competency.
- Students who do not reach the performance level of Exceeds when attempting to test-out must enroll in and complete the associated course. The student would again take the EOCT at the conclusion of that course experience regardless of their score during their attempt to test-out.
- Students who achieve a performance level of Exceeds will be awarded course credit with the score of the test being issued as the course grade. The Georgia Student Finance Commission will allow this score to be included in the calculation for the HOPE Scholarship Program.
- Under NCAA legislation, units of credit earned through demonstration of subject area competency by testing-out of courses using the End-of-Course Tests **will not** count as a core course credit for athletic aid for any student seeking NCAA Division I or II athletic scholarships.
- Testing-out of core courses through demonstration of subject area competency should not affect a student’s eligibility to participate in dual enrollment opportunities.
- Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to enroll in the associated course after successfully “testing-out.”

The following should be communicated to interested parents and students as well as all of the above information on the permission to test form:

- The “Exceeds” score will be included on a high school student’s transcript and yes, the Georgia Student Finance Commission will allow this score to be included in the calculation for the HOPE Scholarship Program. **Please note that the Georgia Student Finance Commission will only calculate HOPE grade point average (GPA) for students enrolled in 9th through 12th grades.** Student scores below the “Exceeds” performance level should not be reported on the student transcript.
- Under NCAA legislation, units of credit earned through demonstration of subject area competency by testing-out of courses using the End-of-Course Tests **will not** count as a core course credit for athletic aid for any student seeking NCAA Division I or II athletic scholarships.
- Middle school students can participate in the testing-out option for high school courses taught in middle school. There is not a grade or age limit.
- A student could attain up to three units of credits if they test-out of three courses and could be awarded three additional units of core credit for embedded CTAE courses when they become available.
- You can use recommendations from previous teachers from the same content area or relevant subject even if the course was completed prior to the previous year. Yes, this also applies to middle school students.
- The USG and TCSG will consider units of credit earned through demonstration of subject area competency by testing-out of courses using the EOCT. TCSG is an open access system of technical colleges. Earning credits by testing-out of courses should not impede your admission into a TCSG institution. However, the ability of a student to succeed in a program at a Technical College is greatly determined by the math and language skills possessed by that student. All students applying for diploma, degree, and certificate programs must be assessed prior to acceptance to a program of study at a Technical College. Students will then be admitted in accordance with the academic standards applicable to that program.
- Testing-out of core courses through demonstration of subject area competency should not affect a student’s eligibility to participate in dual enrollment opportunities.
- Students can attempt to test-out of more than three different courses but can only earn a total of three units of credit by testing-out. The first three courses that the student scores “Exceeds” on by testing-out will be all the units of credit that the student can earn by testing-out. The limit of three units of credit by testing-out is in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 20-2-159.4 (c) (5).
- Students who test-out with a score of exceeds will receive a unit of credit for the EOCT course and not “Honors” course. The term “Honors” is not included in the title of courses listed in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.20 *List of State-Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses for Students Entering Ninth Grade in 2008 and Subsequent Years*. The use of the term “Honors” is a local school district decision.