

## NORTH CAROLINA TESTING

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### STATE ASSESSMENTS

- **End-of-Course Assessments (EOC):** The North Carolina Accountability Program mandates testing in all end-of-course offerings where a state assessment is available. Students are required to take the assessment which is administered as a final exam and counts as 25 percent of the student's final grade. Students must take the assessment in order to receive credit for the course. Additional information on this process may be found on the Department of Public Instruction website, [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org).
- **Career and Technical Education State Assessment:** The Career and Technical Education Program of Studies mandates testing in all Career and Technical Education classes. Students are required to take the assessment which is administered as a final exam and counts 25 percent of the student's final grade.
- **PLAN<sup>®</sup>:** The PLAN<sup>®</sup> program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. All students enrolled in PowerSchool in grade 10 will be **required** to participate in the administration of PLAN<sup>®</sup>.
- **ACT<sup>®</sup>:** The ACT<sup>®</sup> test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. All students identified in PowerSchool in 11<sup>th</sup> grade will be **required** to participate in ACT<sup>®</sup>.
- **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>** is a job skills assessment system that helps employers select, hire, train, develop, and retain a high-performance workforce. **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>** helps ensure that individuals are ready for work—and for life. If students are going to be adequately prepared for the workforce, they need to understand the requirements for jobs they are considering. **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>** helps students determine the skill levels required for various jobs. Students identified as completing a cluster in their senior year are **required** to participate in the **WorkKeys<sup>®</sup>** assessment.
- **NC Final Exams:** NC Final Exams are classroom assessments provided by the State for local use in teacher evaluation. The NC Final exams measure what students know and are able to do after completing a course or a grade. The assessments are designed for core grades and subjects that are currently non-tested (i.e. non-end-of-grade and non-end-of-course subjects). Growth shown on the NC Final exams is used as part of the overall annual teacher evaluation process to determine the sixth standard rating, as well as part of how a teacher's overall status is determined. The NC Final Exams for high school courses will count as 25 percent of the student's final grade.

### Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Exams

Onslow County high schools offer a number of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. These courses are designed for students who are ready for the rigor of college-level work and are willing to dedicate significant time outside of class to be academically successful at a high level. AP/IB classes may require summer reading, after school or weekend labs and additional review sessions. Students are encouraged to begin AP/IB courses as soon in their high school career as appropriate. Students are encouraged to take the most rigorous courses offered in their schools in preparation for AP/IB courses. To be granted college credit, students must sign up and pay for the College Board's AP test or the International Baccalaureate exam for each AP/IB course taken. College credit may be earned by attaining the required scores on the national AP or International IB exams. Students should consult with their chosen college to determine the test grade required to receive credit at that institution. Standards vary across the state and the nation.

### PSAT

The PSAT, a preliminary test for the SAT, offers students valuable testing experience and specific feedback on test results. *In order to qualify for National Merit Scholarship or National Achievement, the student must take the test during the junior year.* Students are encouraged to take the PSAT in the ninth or tenth grades, study their results carefully and retake the test in the junior year.

### SAT I

The SAT is a college admissions tests. Students may obtain possible SAT I administration dates through their counseling office. Students should consult the counseling office to receive information about SAT review opportunities. Information on the SAT is outlined at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### SAT II

The SAT II is a series of tests that are required by some colleges for admission and/or placement. Students should consult their selected college for specific requirements.