

2011 SOS Article – Secondary Assessment Transition

New Plan for High School Assessments

Students who enter high school this fall 2011 will no longer take the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) in English, math, science, and social studies in order to graduate. The new plan, approved by the State Board of Education in April, will require students to pass all required courses, and the End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) will count 20% of a student's final grade, rather than the current 15% weight.

Courses requiring an EOCT

Ninth Grade Literature (grade 9)

American Literature (grade 11)

Math I (grade 9 or grade 8 for accelerated)

Math II (grade 10 or grade 9 for accelerated)

US History (grade 11)

Economics (grade 12)

Biology (grade 9)

Physical Science (grade 8)*

*new 2011-2012, all eighth grade students will take physical science. Please note companion article on FCS offering high school credit courses in middle school.

The EOCTs are more rigorous assessments and are administered immediately following coursework rather than waiting until a student's Junior year to determine whether or not he or she has mastered the standards.

The State Board of Education rule changes also allow flexibility for students who entered ninth grade between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2011 to meet graduation requirements by either passing the GHS GT or at least one of the two equivalent end of course tests in each corresponding content area.

Every student must continue to complete all applicable course requirements as well as taking and passing the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT).

Students who enter grade 9 for the first time in SY2011-2012 or after

- Must pass the GHSWT to be eligible for diploma
- Are not required to take or pass GHS GT
- Are required to pass courses associated with EOCT with EOCT contributing 20% to course grade
- Are not required to pass EOCT

Students who entered grade 9 for the first time between July 2008 and June 2011

- Must pass the GHSWT to be eligible for diploma
- Must pass one of the two subject-area EOCT or the corresponding subject-area GHS GT
- Are required to pass courses associated with EOCT, with EOCT contributing 20% to course grade