

ARMS Spring 2021 EOC Milestone FAQ

*****This is a work in progress as questions come in from the survey!*****

Q: When are the Milestone testing dates?

A:

Algebra I: Thursday, May 6th

Physical Science: Friday, May 7th

Q: What time will you begin and how long will it take?

A: We will get started at 9:00 a.m.. Each test has 2 sections tested over two days. Please see the chart below for approximate testing times. Add 30-60 minutes for administrative tasks, like attendance, phone collection, test ticket distribution, Chromebook troubleshooting, etc.

Test name	Maximum minutes per section	Total maximum testing time (minutes)
Algebra I	65	130
Physical Science	40	80

Q: How will you be testing? Large group? Small groups?

A: Unfortunately, we don't have enough data to respond to this question at this time, which is part of the reason we are asking for your input. We will be testing remote students using two options. Students will test with in person learners or may opt to test separately from in person learners. Students who test separately from in person learners will either use a large common area such as the gym or the commons, or we will test in classrooms with no more than 15 students per room.

We will have hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to wipe the desks available in each classroom and masks will be required.

Q: Can we take the Milestone at home?

A: No, the state is not able to make this accommodation for students through their platform. Any student who wishes to test must appear in person.

Q: Will the Physical Science assessment count as a high school course?

A: The Physical Science EOC score will count at the middle school, but will NOT count at the high school since Physical Science is no longer a tested course at high school.

Q: Will my scholar have to take both the EOC and EOG assessments in science and math in middle school?

A: Beginning with the 2020-2021, advanced middle school students enrolled in high school courses with associated EOCs are required to take both the EOG and EOC except middle school students enrolled in high school science courses (Biology or Physical Science). Advanced middle school students who have opted to test and are enrolled in Algebra I will have to take both the Algebra I EOC and the 8th Grade Mathematics EOG.

Q: If my remote student does not test, will my student really get a zero?

A: For this test administration, students can receive credit for Milestone courses without taking the End of Course Test in Spring 2021. We do not anticipate that this will continue beyond this school year. In any given year, a student who does not take the Milestone will receive a zero for that portion of the course grade and credit will be held until the test is taken. This year, credit will be granted if the student scores a 70 or above on the Course Final Average whether they take the test or not.

Q: How much will a zero on the Milestone impact my child's grade?

A: Because the State Superintendent Woods determined that students should not be required to come to the school for testing purposes if they have been remote otherwise, and the state BOE approved the Milestone to count as 0.01% of the overall course grade, the answer is really not much at all.

Consider a scenario where the student has a 70 in the course and determines that they do not want to test due to COVID related concerns. The grade is made up of 99.99% of 70 and 0.01% of 0.

$70 * .9999 + 0 * 0.0001 = 69.993$ Course Final Average.

Q: But if my student takes the test and does well what happens?

A: If a student takes the Milestone test and scores higher than their course grade, the Milestone will count as 20% of the overall course grade. Consider this:

Let's say that same student from the previous example with a 70 scores an 85 on the Milestone (don't laugh, this happens!!!) The course final average will be 80% from the 70 and 20% from the 85.

$70 * 0.80 + 85 * 0.20 = 73$ Course Final Average

Q: Even though the grade may not change because of the zero, colleges will see that my student didn't take the state test, right?

A: No. The zero is not recorded by the state as the official score of the test, it is just what Henry County uses in the grade book to calculate the Course Final Average. Only whole number grades are reported on transcripts, so that 69.993 will print as a 70 and our official transcripts that are sent to Georgia Futures and colleges do not display Milestone test scores. Some other versions of transcripts list test scores, but would not list a test as "not taken," rather it just would not appear at all.

Q: If the Milestone won't change the grade if it's bad or only moves a final grade a little, why would I opt to have my student take that test if it isn't required this year?

A: We can use the data to inform us of your student's strengths and weaknesses in the course content based on the disaggregated data provided by the state. Your student will take more Milestones before they graduate, so it's good practice to sit for the test.

Q: Will transportation be available?

A: The buses will run their regular routes. Please keep in mind that they will only run at regular times, meaning morning drop off at school and afternoon pick up at 3:15. If you plan to have your student leave after testing, they must arrange for a ride after testing is completed. Students not picked up within 30 minutes of the conclusion of testing will need to attend their regular classes, as we don't have a way to supervise remote students who are not actively testing in the building.

It's also important to note that bus routes this year are most likely not the same as last year. Find your route here: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/161>

Q: Will my student be allowed to eat breakfast before the test?

A: School meals are free for the duration of this school year for all students. If you indicate that your student is coming to school to test from remote learning, we'll ask you closer to the test date if you plan to have a meal here so we can be sure to have enough food prepared. Breakfast items are pre-packaged individually, so there is no danger of "open air" food distribution. Of course, your student is welcome to bring their own food, but it will need to be eaten in the commons area for sanitary reasons.