

February 12, 2018

As approved 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 State Board of Education in April 2013(revised Oct. 2016), the opportunity exists for student to “test-out” of any course for which there is an associated Georgia Milestones EOC and earn credit for the course through the 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 achievement level of **Distinguished** (*Grade Conversion Score=92*) prior to taking the course. For example, a student may attempt the Biology EOC prior to taking the course. If the student reaches the achievement level of Distinguished, the local board of education shall award the student the Biology course credit. A student may test-out of any course that has an associated EOC. (EOC courses include Biology, Physical Science, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature, American Literature, US History, Economics, Algebra 1 and Geometry.) As stated in the Guidelines, 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 EOC;
3. Received a teacher recommendation from the teacher of the most recent course in the same content area for which the student is attempting the EOC; and
4. Received parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age.

Consideration of the test-out option will 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.

### **Test Administration Guidelines**

Per state guidance, when allowing students to attempt to earn course credit through testing out, districts and school shall:

1. Allow eligible students **only one opportunity per course** to demonstrate subject area competency.
2. Systems must utilize only the GaDOE designated administration windows for this purpose and all administrations must be conducted online.
3. Require students who do not reach the achievement level of Distinguished when attempting to test-out to enroll in and complete the associated course when applicable. The student would again take the EOC at the conclusion of that course experience regardless of their score during their attempt to test-out.
4. As stipulated in the Guidelines previously issued for this Board rule, districts/schools shall not allow students who are currently enrolled, or who have previously been enrolled, in a higher-level course to attempt to earn credit by testing out. For example, a student taking AP Physics may not earn credit for Physical Science through this process.

5. The administration of all EOCs for this purpose must adhere to the system's local EOC testing calendar. This stipulation is critical to ensure test security. For example, students taking the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Lit and Comp EOC for the purposes of testing out must be administered the test on the same day or consecutive days that the system is administering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Lit and Comp EOC to all other students.
6. Once a test-out credit has been posted to a student's transcript, a student may not enroll in the course, and course credit cannot be declined from the student's transcript.

### **Cost to FCS Students**

The established fee for the EOC test-out is currently \$50.00 per test. Schools will collect this fee from each student during registration for the EOC test. Students who reach the achievement level of Distinguished will be refunded the \$50 fee (applicable only for those courses for which the student posts a credit). Students who attain the achievement level of Beginning Learner, Developing Learner or Proficient Learner will not be refunded the fee and will not earn course credit; these students must enroll in the course and will take the associated EOC again at the end of the course.

### **Availability of Test-Out Option for Forsyth County Students**

For the 2017-2018 school year, the opportunity for students to test-out will be offered **March 22, 2018**. Students must pre-register, which includes payment of the \$50/test fee, in order to sit for the test-out option. **Pre-registration deadline is March 9, 2018**. Another test-out opportunity will be offered in June 2018 with dates TBD.

### **Credit Application to Transcripts**

If a student is enrolled in high school, the Distinguished score will be recorded on the student's transcript and will be calculated in the student's GPA. (Honors, Accelerated, IB and AP designations do NOT apply to EOC test-out options.) If a Forsyth County student takes the EOC test-out option prior to the official entry date for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Distinguished score will be recorded on the student's transcript but will not be calculated into the student's high school GPA. Per Forsyth County Schools' Testing Policy, only students enrolled in Forsyth County Schools may participate in testing.

Questions regarding the EOC test-out option should be directed to your school's Test Coordinator or to Forsyth County School's Assessment Division at 770-887-2461.