

Parent Guide to End of Year Testing

Spring 2013

Students have always taken tests but the number of tests is increasing. Why so many tests? In 2001, the United States congress made it federal law for students in targeted grades to be tested in ELA, mathematics and science. Their primary purpose was for schools and school systems to have a way to publicly demonstrate that we are helping every child achieve academically. Since then, state and federal lawmakers have asked that individual teachers demonstrate their impact on student achievement. That increased demand has resulted in increased testing.

This guide shares answers to frequently asked questions about end of year testing at CMS. We hope can serve a resource for you this spring.

General Information

1. Which exams are students required to take at the end of the 2012-13 school year?

- End of Year testing requirements vary by grade and subject. Overall, students are required to take End-of-Grade (EOG) exams, and/or End-of-Course (EOC) exams, and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE) exams, and/or Common exams.
- Alternative EOG and EOC assessments, NCEExtend1 and NCEExtend2 exams, are offered to eligible students with special needs.
- Common Exams are state-mandated assessments that were created to provide evidence of a teacher's impact on students' academic achievement and growth.
- Each of these sets of exams is state required. Specific requirements are as follows:

Elementary Grades - EOG

- **Grade 3:** English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics EOG.
- **Grade 4:** ELA and Math EOG.
- **Grade 5:** ELA, Math, and Science EOG.

Elementary Grades – Common Exams

- **Grade 3:** None
- **Grade 4:** Social Studies and Science IF teachers for these subjects do not also teach ELA or Math to their students.
- **Grade 5:** Social studies IF Social Studies teachers do not also teach ELA, Math or Science to their students.

Middle Grades – EOG and EOC

- **Grade 6:** ELA and Math EOG.
- **Grade 7:** ELA and Math EOG.
- **Grade 8:** ELA and Science EOG. Math EOG or Algebra I EOC.

Middle Grades – Common Exams

- **Grade 6:** Social Studies and Science Common Exams IF teachers for these subjects do not also teach ELA or Math to their students.
- **Grade 7:** Social Studies and Science Common Exams IF teachers for these subjects do not also teach ELA or math to their students.
- **Grade 8:** Social Studies Common Exam IF teachers for these subjects do not also teach ELA or math to their students.

High School Grades – EOC

- Common Exams in designated subjects (see below)
- Algebra I EOC (if course not taken and passed in 8th grade).
- Biology EOC.
- English II EOC.
- CTE exams (for Career and Vocational Education concentrators).
- Teacher created final exams.

High School – Common Exams

- **Science:** Earth Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, Physical Science

Parent Guide to End of Year Testing

Spring 2013

- **English Language Arts:** ELA I, III, IV
- **Math:** Pre-Calculus, Advanced Functions and Modeling, Geometry, Algebra II/Integrated Math III
- **Social Studies:** World History, U.S. History, Civics & Economics
- **Occupational Course of Study (OCS):** ELA I, III, IV, Financial Management, Introductory Math, Applied Science

2. How will Exam Results be used/not used?

- Exam scores in high school will not be used as 25% of a student's final grade in that class in the 2012-13 school year. This practice will resume next year, in the 2013-14 school year.
- High school students enrolled in a Common Exam tested subject must participate in Common exam to receive credit for that particular course.
- EOC and EOG scores will be used to rate a school's overall performance.
- Common Exam results will be used as part of teachers' evaluations.

3. How are Common Exams related to common core state standards?

- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has worked to align Common Exams to the NC Standard Course of Study being taught in NC's schools this year. Many of the Common Exams are in science and social studies content areas – which have Essential Standards specifically created in NC. Common Exams in English I, III, and IV, are aligned to the Common Core. Similarly, Common Exams in Geometry, Algebra II, Integrated Math III are also aligned to the Common Core. The Common Core Standards did not cover any advanced math courses, so the Common Exams for Advanced Functions and Modeling and Pre-calculus align with our own NC standards.

4. How are Common Exams similar to or different from End-of-Grade (EOG) or End-of-Course

(EOC) Exams?

- EOG and EOC exams are used to judge the performance of schools throughout the state of North Carolina. Common Exams are not used for this purpose, but are administered in subject areas that do not have EOG or EOC exams to determine a teacher's impact on a student's academic growth as part of the state's educator effectiveness model.

Test Administration

5. When will Exams be administered?

- NCEExtend2 EOG: May 6-10.
- Regular EOG: May 20-24.
- Middle School Regular and NCEExtend 2 EOCs: June 3 and 4.
- High School Regular and NCEExtend 2 EOCs: June 3-7.
- CTE exams: June 3-7.
- Common Exams: May 13 – 31.
- No testing can occur on May 15 or 16 due to religious holidays

6. Are make-ups required?

- Yes. Any absent student should make up the test upon returning to school, within the established testing window.

7. Are retests required?

- Retests are not required this year except in the case of a misadministration.
 - Retesting cannot be completed earlier than five consecutive calendar days following the prior administration.

8. Will tests be administered on-line?

- Some districts in North Carolina have begun administering EOG and EOC exams on-line. CMS is moving in this direction and will be prepared to administer all of our state required EOG and EOC exams on-line in the 2014-15 school year.

9. Which students are NOT required to take Common Exams?

- Students currently being instructed on the

Parent Guide to End of Year Testing Spring 2013

Extended Content Standards and who have NCEXTEND1 documented in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

- Students identified as LEP who score BELOW level 4.0 Expanding on reading subtest of the W-APT, and are in first year in U.S. schools, are not required to be assessed on English Language Arts I, III, IV, and Occupational Course of Study (OCS) English Language Arts I, III and IV.
- Students taking a course for credit recovery.
- Students enrolled in North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS).
- Students approved for a medical exemption.
- Students enrolled in IB diploma and AP classes.
- Elementary school students who are taught science or social studies by the teacher who also teaches them math or English language arts.

Information

10. Where can I get more information?

- For additional information on state testing you may visit the NCDPI website at:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/>

