

End of Course Assessments

1. What are End of Course exams?

Florida statute 1008.22 (b) details the statewide, standardized assessments that are required for specified courses. Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) refers to these Department of Education mandated assessments as EOC's. EOC exams measure student mastery of the curriculum standards for specific courses.

2. Who participates in End of Course exams?

Students enrolled in middle school Civics, high school Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology and US History are required to participate in state EOC's.

Assessment	Course	Standards
Algebra 1	Algebra 1 - 1200310	Florida Standards
	Algebra 1 Honors - 1200320	Florida Standards
Geometry	Geometry - 1206310	Florida Standards
	Geometry Honors - 1206320	Florida Standards
Algebra 2	Algebra 2 - 1200330	Florida Standards
	Algebra 2 Honors - 1200340	Florida Standards
Biology	Biology - 2000310	Next Gen Sunshine State St
	Biology Hon - 2000320	Next Gen Sunshine State St
	Biology Pre-IB - 2000800	Next Gen Sunshine State St
US History	US History - 2100310	Next Gen Sunshine State St
	US History Honors - 2100320	Next Gen Sunshine State St
Middle School Civics	M/J Civics - 2106010	Next Gen Sunshine State St
	M/J Civics - 2106015	Next Gen Sunshine State St
	M/J Civics - 2106020	Next Gen Sunshine State St

3. How do End of Course exams impact student grades?

EOC's count as 30% of the semester grades earned in the course. At the end of each semester the student is issued a tentative semester grade. Once the EOC results are available, a letter grade is assigned to the student based upon the student's score on the test. This letter grade is entered into the student's course records and the student's grades for semester one and semester two are recalculated. The student's grade point average is then updated and credit in high school courses is awarded.

4. How are the letter grades earned on the End of Course exams determined?

Each district determines the letter grades associated with an EOC score. The SCPS' process is based on analyzing the percentage of students who earned letter grades of "A" through "F" in the EOC course. The letter grade cut points for the EOC exam score are then set to mirror these percentages. For example, if 20% of students district-wide earned an "A" in the EOC course, then approximately 20% of the top scores on the exam would be given an "A" grade and so on. Then to ensure validity of these cut points, teachers who teach EOC courses are gathered to review the letter grade cut points and provide feedback.

5. Does a student have to pass the End of Course exam to earn credit in the course?

Credit in an EOC associated course is determined by the grade earned in the course, not passing the test. The course grade consists of both the student grades earned through completion of course assignments (70%) and the EOC result (30%). If a student earns an "F" for the EOC portion of the grade but the overall semester grade is a "D" or higher, then student has passed the course and credit will be awarded in high school courses if applicable.

6. Does a student have to pass the End of Course exams in order to graduate?

Students are required to earn a level 3 or above on the Algebra 1 EOC in order to earn a standard diploma. The Algebra 1 EOC is the only EOC students are required to pass in order to graduate.

Students who wish to earn a standard diploma with a Scholar's Designation must earn a level 3 or above on the EOC's for Biology and US History. Scholar's Designation requirements for Geometry and Algebra 2 vary based upon the student's intended year of graduation. Students and parents should contact their school guidance department for more information.

7. Does a middle school student have to pass the Civics End of Course exam in order to be promoted?

Earning a level 3 or above on the Civics EOC is not required in order for a student to be promoted to the next grade level.

8. What are the consequences if a student does not participate in the EOC?

The EOC result is required to be calculated as 30% of the student's earned grade in the course. If no EOC result is available, the student's grade is not complete. The student will receive a grade mark of "NG" and no credit will be awarded in high school EOC courses.

9. What if a student is absent for the EOC?

Absent students will be scheduled into the next available make up session within the testing window. If the student does not make up the EOC, then the student's grade in the EOC associated course will be an "NG" (see above). The student will be scheduled to take the EOC during the next available administration. Parents should contact the school for details on the available EOC make up sessions.

10. Are End of Course exams used to calculate teacher evaluations and school grades?

Results from the EOC's will be used to calculate a portion of teacher evaluations and will be used by the Department of Education in the school grade calculation process.

Standards Based Assessments

11. What are Standards Based Assessments?

Standards Based Assessments or SBA's cover major curriculum standards that have been emphasized repeatedly throughout the length of a course. The SBA's contain approximately 30-40 multiple choice questions on ten major standards of emphasis for the course. These assessments have been developed for each course that is not directly aligned to a state required assessment. The SBA's for middle and high school courses were scheduled to serve as the students' nine week exam for the fourth quarter.

On April 14th, Governor Scott signed HB 7069 resulting in the elimination of the requirement to develop and administer these assessments. Secondary principals consulted with their leadership teams and teachers about next steps and the overwhelming response was to allow middle and high school teachers options for implementing the SBA's. Teachers have the flexibility to (1) continue the SBA exams as originally scheduled, (2) administer the SBA exam and add additional questions, projects, essay questions, etc., or (3) not use the SBA and administer their own nine week assessment (test, projects, performances, etc.) Prior to selecting one of these options, teachers will have an opportunity to preview the SBA.

12. How do Standards Based Assessments differ from Nine Week Exams?

Nine week exams are teacher developed tests that cover instruction on curriculum standards that has taken place in the nine week grading period. These assessments can be tests or performance based assessments such as projects, presentations or performances. Nine week exams are calculated as 20% of the nine week grade in which the assessment is given.

SBA's differ from nine week exams in that the test covers curriculum standards taught over the entire length of the course and they are not performance based. Like nine week exams, SBA's are calculated as 20% of the nine week grade in which the assessment is given.

13. How do Standards Based Assessments/Fourth Nine Week Exams differ from state required End of Course exams?

State required End of Course exams cover the entirety of the curriculum standards taught in the course. The EOC's are more rigorous and require students to respond to a variety of question types. Most EOC's are required to be administered via computer over 2-3 testing sessions each lasting between 60-90 minutes in length. The EOC's count 30% of each semester grade earned in the course.

14. Who participates in Standards Based Assessments/Fourth Nine Week Exams?

Students in middle school and high school participate in SBA's/fourth nine week exams. The number of SBA's/fourth nine week exams a student will take is dependent upon the student's schedule of classes. The chart below represents SBA/fourth nine week exam participation by grade level for students enrolled in a typical schedule of classes.

SBA/Fourth Nine Week Exam Participation by Grade Level

Student Grade Level	English Language Arts/Reading	Math	Science	Social Studies	Elective Courses
6th	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
7th	No	No	Yes	No***	Yes
8th	No	No	No**	Yes	Yes
9th	No	No*	No**	Yes	Yes
10th	No	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes
11th	Yes	No*	Yes	No***	Yes
12th	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 do not take an SBA

**Students enrolled in middle school Physical Science and Biology do not take an SBA

***Students enrolled in middle school Civics and high school US History do not take an SBA

15. How were Standards Based Assessments developed?

The teachers of each course requiring an SBA were brought together to discuss and select the ten curriculum standards of emphasis on the test. These teachers then wrote the test questions or selected the test questions from the state item bank.

16. How were Nine Week Exams developed?

Teachers design the nine week exam based upon curriculum covered during the grading period. These assessments can be developed with input from multiple teachers who teach the same subject or independently by individual teachers. Nine week exams can be performance based assessments such as projects and presentations. The type of assessment is at the discretion on the teacher.

17. How were the Standards Based Assessment test questions developed?

The Department of Education developed an Item Bank Testing Platform (IBTP). The test questions imported into the item bank for use in developing SBA's were written by Florida teachers certified in their subject areas. Each test item was subjected to analysis and review to be sure that it aligned to the selected standard and was free of bias before import into the IBTP. The state facilitated this process for selected courses. SCPS' teachers then reviewed questions for the standards they selected to include on the SBA and the teachers selected the questions for the test. If the teachers did not find the IBTP questions to their liking, they had the option of writing their own questions for the SBA.

For the courses that were not selected for inclusion in the IBTP, it was up to SCPS to develop test items for these courses. SCPS' teachers developed all the test questions for these courses. Assessment and Accountability facilitated this process and vetted the test items.

18. How do Standards Based Assessments/Fourth Nine Week exams impact student grades?

SBA's/fourth nine week exams count as 20% of the nine week grade. For yearlong courses and semester courses that terminate in May, students will take the SBA or a fourth nine week exam. The teachers score the SBA/fourth nine week exam and assign the grade earned by the student on the test.

19. What are the consequences if student does not participate in the Standards Based Assessment/Fourth Nine Week Exam?

The SBA/fourth nine week exam counts 20% of the fourth nine week grade. Students who do not participate will receive a "0" for their grade on the assessment. This may result in a significant impact to the student's overall grade for 4th nine weeks. This is the same consequence associated with not participating in the nine week assessments for quarters 1, 2 or 3.

20. What if a student is absent for the Standards Based Assessment/Fourth Nine Week Exam?

Like any student absence, students who are absent when the SBA/fourth nine week exam is administered are eligible to make up the exam. Parents of absent students should contact their school for details on scheduling a makeup of the test.

21. Are Standards Based Assessments/Fourth Nine Week Exams used to calculate teacher evaluations and school grades?

For the 14-15 school year, results from the SBA's/fourth nine week exams will not be used to calculate any portion of the teacher evaluation. SBA's/fourth nine week exams are not a part of the Department of Education school grade calculation process.