

SUPERINTENDENT
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LCSS Test Out Option

September 16, 2020

Under the provisions of the amended 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 and guidelines published by the Georgia Department of Education's (GaDOE) Office of Curriculum and Instruction, local boards of education shall award course credit to students who reach the performance level of Distinguished on and End of Course (EOC) 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, American Literature, US History, and Algebra 1. As provided by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-159.4, a student may earn up to three credits by testing-out. (***This may be subject to change due to the recent reduction in state testing with [SB 367](#)***)

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 a content area course that is the same content area of the course for which the student is attempting the EOC test;
3. Received a teacher recommendation from a teacher in the same content area 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. Utilize the appropriate state-approved testing window for administering the EOC test and coding for the EOC testing-out option as described in the assessment coding procedures;

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 and retake the EOC test even if the student makes a passing grade on the EOC test during the testing-out attempt, if the course is required for graduation; and
4. Count units of credit earned under this testing-out option toward fulfillment of students' requirements for a subject area course, toward fulfillment requirement as to course sequences, and towards meeting graduation requirements.
5. 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.
6. 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 American 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 American Lit and and Comp EOC to all other students.
7. 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 LCSS 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 Lee County Students

The opportunity for students to test-out will be offered during the June online mid-month EOC window. Students must pre-register, which includes payment of the \$50/test fee, in order to sit for the test-out option.

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 Lee County student takes the EOC Test-Out Option prior to the official entry date for 9th 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 Lee county County Schools' Testing Policy, only students enrolled in Lee County Schools may participate in testing.

Questions regarding the EOC test-out option should be directed to your school's Test Coordinator or to LCSS Testing Director at 229-903-2100.