



# End-of-Course Exams

Education Commission of the States

[www.ecs.org](http://www.ecs.org)

700 Broadway, Suite 810 • Denver, CO 80203-3442 • 303.299.3600 • Fax: 303.296.8332 •

## End-of-Course Exams

By Jennifer Dounay Zinth

March 2012

This report provides information on states that require students enrolled in courses that have an end-of-course (EOC) exam to take the EOC.

### EOC by the numbers:

#### Statewide administration:

- Twenty-two states currently administer one or more EOCs to all students in an EOC course.
  - This number will increase to 26 states over the next decade as EOCs are anticipated to be implemented in Alabama, Connecticut, Hawaii and Ohio.

#### EOC as exit exam:

- Eight states currently require students to *pass* one or more EOC assessments to graduate from high school.
  - This number will likely increase to 15 states by 2020, with the anticipated implementation of EOCs as exit exams in Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Ohio, Texas and Washington.

#### EOC not exit exam:

- Eleven states currently administer EOCs to all students in an EOC course, but do not require students to earn a passing score. These 11 states include California, New Jersey and South Carolina, which use another assessment as the state's exit exam.

#### Final course grade:

- At least five states — Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee — require that the score on the EOC be factored into a student's final course grade. A sixth state, Texas, offers districts a deferral of a policy to incorporate EOC scores into students' final course grades, but for the 2011-12 school year only.

#### This report does not include:

- States such as Iowa and Michigan, which have developed EOCs for optional district-level use
- States such as Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, which allow EOCs to be used as one component of a proficiency demonstration that must accompany Carnegie units for high school graduation
- States such as South Dakota that have developed EOCs expressly for students who wish to exempt themselves from seat-time requirements in fulfilling high school graduation requirements
- States administering American Diploma Project (ADP) end-of-course assessments.

*More details on these states' EOC programs available from the author on request.*

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
<b>AL</b>	Proposal on transition from existing graduation exam to end-of-course assessments to be presented to the state board at its May 2012 meeting.		Gloria Turner, Alabama State Department of Education
<b>AR</b>	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English II</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I (current)</li> <li>English II (for 10<sup>th</sup> graders beginning 2013-14 school year) (Class of 2016)</li> </ul> *Students who fail Biology or Geometry EOCs must participate in remediation, but passing score on EOC not required for HS graduation*	Arkansas <a href="#">Rule</a>
<b>CA</b>	16: <sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Integrated Math I, II, III</li> <li>Summative HS Math</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Earth Science</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>Integrated Science I, II, III, IV</li> <li>World History</li> </ul>	None *State uses CAHSEE (California High School Exit Examination) for exit purposes*	California Department of Education, <a href="#">Standardized Testing and Reporting Program: Annual Report to the Legislature</a> ; February 2011; Blessing Mupanduki, STAR Office, California Department of Education
<b>CT</b>	Five (to be developed): <sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 10 English</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>American History</li> </ul>	Effective Class of 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 10 English</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>American History</li> </ul>	CONN. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 10-221a(c), 10-5e
<b>DE</b>	Five: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English II</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Integrated Math I<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Biology</li> <li>U.S. History</li> </ul>	None	Delaware Comprehensive Assessment <a href="#">System</a> , Delaware Department of Education <a href="#">News Release</a> , "New test to better track student progress toward college and career readiness debuts in Delaware classrooms," October 11, 2010; Alison Kepner, Delaware Department of Education

<sup>1</sup> California also has end-of-course in CMA (California Modified Assessment) program for students with IEPs. CMA EOCs are available in Algebra I and geometry. STS (Standardized Test in Spanish) program administers EOCs in Algebra I and geometry.

<sup>2</sup> Legislation directs the department of education to begin development or approval of end-of-course assessments on/after July 1, 2014, and for these assessments to be developed or approved by July 1, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> An Algebra II/Integrated Math III EOC is being field-tested in 2011-12 and is anticipated to be

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
<b>FL</b>	Five: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology I</li> <li>U.S. History</li> <li>Civics (for middle grades)</li> </ul>	State currently transitioning to EOC for math/science portion of exit exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I (eff. students entering grade 9 in 2011-12)</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology I (both eff. for students entering grade 9 in 2012-13)</li> </ul> *State will use Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading as the English language arts portion of the state's exit exam. Eff. 2014-15 school year, students must pass middle grades Civics EOC to be promoted from middle grades.*	FLA. STAT. ANN. § 1003.428(2)(a)(2) and (3), 1008.22(3)(c)(2); <a href="#">Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments</a>
<b>GA</b>	10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9<sup>th</sup>-Grade Literature and Composition</li> <li>American Literature and Composition</li> <li>Mathematics I: Algebra/Geometry/Statistics</li> <li>Mathematics II: Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics</li> <li>GPS Algebra</li> <li>GPS Geometry</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>Physical Science</li> <li>United States History</li> <li>Economics/Business/Free Enterprise</li> </ul>	None. However, students in a course with an EOC must take the EOC, and the EOC score must count as 15% of the student's final course grade.	GA. COMP. R. & REGS. r. 160-4-2-.13(2)(e); Georgia Department of Education <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>HI</b>	One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology (eff. 2012-13)</li> </ul>	None	January 6, 2012 <a href="#">memo</a> from State Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi
<b>IN</b>	Three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 10</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Biology I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 10</li> <li>Algebra I</li> </ul>	IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 511, r. 5-2-3(b)(4) and (5)
<b>KY</b>	Four: <sup>4</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English II</li> <li>Algebra II</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>U.S. History</li> </ul>	None. However, teachers must incorporate EOC scores into a student's final grade in the course, in accordance with local board and school-based decision-making council policies. Local boards must provide justification to the Kentucky Department of Education if that percentage factored into student's final grade is below 20%.	KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.860; KDE <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions: End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments: Edition 1</a>
<b>LA</b>	Six: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English II</li> <li>English III</li> <li>Algebra I</li> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>U.S. History</li> </ul>	Eff. students entering grade 9 in 2010-11 (Class of 2014): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English II or English III</li> <li>Algebra I or Geometry</li> <li>Biology or American History</li> </ul>	La. Admin Code. tit. 28, pt. XXXIX, § 503(B)(1)(b), La. Admin Code. tit. 28, pt. CXI, § 701, 1801 and ff.
<b>MD</b>	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English</li> <li>Algebra/Data Analysis</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English</li> <li>Algebra/Data Analysis</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>Government</li> </ul> * Students must either receive a passing score on all four assessments or receive an overall combined score of 1602.*	MD. REGS. CODE tit. 13A, § 03.02.09(B)(3); Section 4, "Scoring Procedures" HSA Technical <a href="#">Report</a>

<sup>4</sup> Statute also calls for creation of Algebra I and Geometry EOCs, but these have not been developed at this time.

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
<b>MA</b>	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Introductory Physics</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Technology/Engineering</li> </ul>	Students must earn passing score on one of the four MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) tests (at left).	Mass. DOE MCAS <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>MS</b>	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English II</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Biology I</li> <li>• U.S. History from 1877</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English II</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Biology I</li> <li>• U.S. History from 1877</li> </ul>	SBE Policy <a href="#">3600</a> , <a href="#">3800</a>
<b>MO</b>	Eight: <sup>5</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Government</li> <li>• American History</li> </ul>	None. However, students in Algebra I, Biology, English II and Government must take those EOCs.	Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>NJ</b>	One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> </ul>	None. However, students in a Biology course must take the Biology Competency Test (EOC). State uses High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) for exit purposes.	Measurement Incorporated <a href="#">fact sheet</a>
<b>NY</b>	13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive English</li> <li>• Integrated Algebra</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra 2/Trigonometry</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Earth Science</li> <li>• Living Environment</li> <li>• Physics</li> <li>• Global History and Geography</li> <li>• United States History and Government</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Italian</li> <li>• Spanish</li> </ul>	Five Regents exams, one each in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Mathematics (chosen from list at left)</li> <li>• Science (chosen from list at left)</li> <li>• United States History and Government</li> <li>• Global History and Geography</li> </ul>	N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 8, § 100.5; New York State Education Department <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>NC</b>	Three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Biology</li> </ul>	None. However, students in a course with an EOC must take the EOC, and LEAs must make EOC results at least 25% of a student's final course grade. LEAs must adopt policies on the use of EOC assessment results in final grades. A North Carolina Department of Public Instruction <a href="#">document</a> clarifies the courses in which students must take an EOC.	N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 16, r. 6D0305; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>OH</b>	TBD	Statute calls for Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) to be replaced by a two-part "college and work ready assessment system" comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A nationally standardized assessment that measures college and career readiness</li> <li>2. A series of EOCs in English language arts, math, science and social studies. "For each subject area, the state superintendent</li> </ol>	OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3301.0712(B)

<sup>5</sup> Districts must administer EOCs in Algebra I, Biology, English II and Government to students taking those courses. The other four EOCs are made available at no cost to districts, but districts are not required to administer to students enrolled in those courses.

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
		and chancellor shall select multiple assessments that school districts, public schools, and chartered nonpublic schools may use as end-of-course examinations. Those assessments shall include nationally recognized subject area assessments, such as advanced placement examinations, SAT subject tests, international baccalaureate examinations, and other assessments of college and work readiness.”	
		Statute does not specify a timeline for transitioning from the OGT to the college and work ready assessment system.	
<b>OK</b>	Seven: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English II</li> <li>• English III</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Biology I</li> <li>• U.S. History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English II</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> </ul> And two of the five: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English III</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Biology I</li> <li>• U.S. History</li> </ul>	OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 70, § 1210.508(A)(6), 1210.523
<b>SC</b>	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English 1</li> <li>• Algebra I/Math for the Technologies 2</li> <li>• Biology 1/Applied Biology 2</li> <li>• U.S. History and the Constitution</li> </ul>	None — state uses another assessment for exit purposes. However, students in a course with an EOC exam must take the EOC, and “students are required to pass a high school credit course in science and a course in United States history in which end-of-course examinations are administered to receive the state high school diploma.” The EOC score counts as 20% of the student’s final grade in the course.	S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-18-310(B); 43 S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 43-262; South Carolina Department of Education <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>TN</b>	Nine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> <li>• English III</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Biology I</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics</li> <li>• U.S. History</li> </ul>	None. However, students in a course in which an EOC is administered must take the EOC and earn a passing grade in the course. For students entering grade 9 in fall of 2009 and 2010 (Class of 2013 and 2014), scores on EOC exams = 20% of final course grade. For students entering grade 9 in fall of 2011 and thereafter (Class of 2015) EOC exam scores = 25% of final grade.	TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0520-01-03.06(2)(d); Tennessee Department of Education <a href="#">Web site</a>
<b>TX</b>	12: <sup>6</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> <li>• English III</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics</li> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• World History</li> <li>• United States History</li> </ul>	Eff. Class of 2015: Students must take all 12 EOCs, earn a to-be-determined cumulative score on each of the four content areas, and pass the English III and Algebra II EOCs. An exception to the EOC requirement is made for a student who elects into “Minimum” high school curriculum, in which case a student is exempted from EOCs in courses not required by the Minimum curriculum. Statute also requires a student’s score on the EOC assessment to account for 15% of a student’s final course grade. However, a February 2012 <a href="#">letter</a> from the commissioner of education provides districts a deferral of this policy for the 2011-12 school year.  Statute requires the end-of-course exams to be used for college placement purposes (students who achieve a certain benchmark on English III or Algebra II EOCs are considered “college-ready”	TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 28.014, 39.023(c), 39.0232, 39.0233, 39.024, 39.025; Texas Education Agency <a href="#">Web site</a>

<sup>6</sup> Texas also has “modified” and “alternate” EOC assessments for students with disabilities, and EOCs in some subject areas for English language learners.

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
		<p>and do not need to take a placement exam upon entry to a public four-year postsecondary institution in the state). Statute additionally requires the Texas Education Agency to develop EOC questions to identify students “who are likely to succeed in an advanced high school course.”</p> <p>In addition, students who do not meet college readiness standards on a required end-of-course assessment must complete a “college preparatory” course (which has its own end-of-course assessment) in that subject. Statute directed the commissioner of education and commissioner of higher education to recommend for state board adoption “the essential knowledge and skills of courses in college preparatory mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts[.]” The score on the EOC for the college preparatory course must account for 15% of the student’s final grade for the course.</p>	
<b>UT</b>	<p>11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English 9</li> <li>• English 10</li> <li>• English 11</li> <li>• Pre-Algebra</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Earth Systems</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Physics</li> </ul>	None	<p>UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-402(G)(1) and R277-404-3(A)(1); Utah State Office of Education <a href="#">Web site</a></p>
<b>VA</b>	<p>12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading (usually administered grade 11)</li> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Earth Science</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• Virginia and U.S. History</li> <li>• World History and Geography to 1500</li> <li>• World History and Geography since 1500</li> </ul>	<p>Six:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 in English</li> <li>• 1 math</li> <li>• 1 laboratory science</li> <li>• 1 history and social sciences</li> <li>• 1 student-selected</li> </ul>	<p>8 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 20-131-50; Virginia Department of Education <a href="#">Web site</a></p>

State	Number of end-of-course exams	Those students must pass for HS graduation	Citation
<b>WA</b>	Three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I/Integrated Math I</li> <li>• Geometry/Integrated Math II Biology<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Eff. Class of 2012: No, although all 10<sup>th</sup> graders must take Biology EOC (even those not enrolled in a biology course), as state is using Biology EOC to fulfill high school science assessment requirement for NCLB accountability.</p> <p>Eff. Class of 2013: Students may use results from either EOC from first year of HS mathematics (i.e., Algebra I or Integrated Math I) or results from a high school mathematics retake assessment to complete math portion of exit exam.</p> <p>Eff. Class of 2015: Students must complete math portion of exit exam requirement via Algebra I/Integrated Math I and Geometry/Integrated Math II (“or results from a high school mathematics retake assessment for the end-of-course assessments in which the student did not meet the standard.”)</p>	<p>WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.655.066, .068; Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction <a href="#">Web site</a></p>

Jennifer Dounay Zinth may be reached at 303.299.3689 or [jdounay@ecs.org](mailto:jdounay@ecs.org).

© 2012 by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). All rights reserved.

ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education.

ECS encourages its readers to share our information with others. To request permission to reprint or excerpt some of our material, please contact the ECS Information Clearinghouse at 303.299.3675 or e-mail [ecs@ecs.org](mailto:ecs@ecs.org).

<sup>7</sup> 2011 legislation establishes legislative intent to develop additional science EOC assessments: “the legislature finds that the financial resources for developing additional end-of-course assessments for high school science are not available in the 2011-2013 biennium. Nevertheless, the legislature intends to revisit this issue in the future and further intends at an appropriate time to direct the superintendent of public instruction to develop one or more end-of-course assessments in additional science subjects.”