



# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

www.dpi.nc.gov

July 18, 2022

**TO** LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

**FROM** Michael Maher, Deputy Superintendent *MM*  
Division of Standards, Accountability, and Research

Tammy L. Howard, Senior Director *TH*  
Office of Accountability and Testing

## **2022–23 Annual Testing Program and Accountability Requirements**

In preparation for the 2022–23 school year, this memo provides affirmation and clarification of processes, procedures, and requirements for the Annual Testing Program and the accountability system. The first two items, Technical Outreach for Public Schools (TOPS) Scanning Pilot and Exporting NC Check-Ins and NC Check-Ins 2.0 to Databases, specify requirements not previously shared. The remaining items, though not new requirements, warrant review to ensure processes are followed and timelines are met.

### ***TOPS Scanning Pilot***

The pilot for scanning paper answer documents at the TOPS warehouse will continue for the 2022–23 school year. Effective with the 2023–24 school year, all paper answer documents will be shipped and scored at the TOPS warehouse. This process will maximize state resources by eliminating the need to provide scanners to districts, which is warranted due to the high percentage of online test administrations. Public school units (PSUs) are to be commended for making this possible by transitioning to online test administrations.

### ***Exporting NC Check-Ins and NC Check-Ins 2.0 to Databases***

The Class Item Reports for NC Check-Ins and NC Check-Ins 2.0 contain the answer keys for each of the three through-grade assessments in the North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool system. The answer keys are secure information intended only for classroom teachers' use in planning for instruction. To ensure the answer key is not compromised, it is not permissible to import this data into other databases, including SchoolNet. Data from other reports for NC Check-Ins (*Class Roster, Domain and Standards Roster, Domain and Standards Summary, and Frequency Summary*) and NC Check-Ins 2.0 (*Class Roster and Class Summary*) that do not include the answer key may be imported into databases.

### ***Online Test Requirements***

During the 2022–23 school year, PSUs are to administer all state required assessments online except The ACT, PreACT, WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, ACCESS for ELLs [Kindergarten], Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, and the NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessment at grade 11.

## **OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TESTING**

6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6307 | (984) 236-2710

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

To ensure students receive a valid and reliable online assessment administration, schools must meet specific technical requirements. The Annual Testing Programs technical requirements list is at <https://center.ncsu.edu/nct>. School test coordinators must review the technical requirements on days before an online assessment administration and make any necessary adjustments before the day of the assessment administration.

### ***Technology Hardship Requests***

If PSUs do not have the technology capacity to support administering the end-of-grade (EOG) and end-of-course (EOC) tests as well as other required online tests, a hardship request must be submitted through the Technology Hardship Request notification system in NCTest Admin. Do not email, mail, or fax requests. Technology Hardship requests will only be approved when a school provides evidence of a technology infrastructure issue. Requests for other reasons will be denied.

Approval from the Office of Accountability and Testing must be documented in the Technology Hardship Request notification system before paper tests can be ordered through the NC Education materials ordering page. These orders will be reviewed and verified by the regional accountability coordinator (RAC) prior to processing and shipping.

Beginning with the 2022–23 school year, PSUs will not be able to request a technology hardship for the NC Check-Ins or the NC Check-Ins 2.0 as these must be administered online.

### ***Requests for Testing Exceptions Based on Significant Medical Emergencies and/or Conditions***

There may be rare instances in which a student is unable to participate in a state assessment during the testing window, including makeup dates, because of a significant medical emergency and/or condition. Examples include, but are not limited to, circumstances involving students who are (1) in the final stages of a terminal or degenerative illness, (2) comatose, or (3) receiving extensive short-term medical treatment due to a medical emergency. Under these circumstances, a school may request from the Office of Accountability and Testing a testing exception for the student. If a medical exception is granted, the student remains enrolled in the school during this period; however, the student does not take the assessment(s), and the student is not included when calculating participation rates.

When submitting medical exception requests, it is important to remember that the medical exception committee provides a decision about the removal of the student's data from the school's denominator (given the supporting documentation and the details of the request). The school should make the decision to test a student based on the medical condition or emergency, not on approval of a medical exception request. Districts and schools should not wait for a medical exception decision before determining to test a student; however, if the student is not tested and the medical exception is denied, the student will be included in the participation calculation.

Attached to this memo is the process for requesting testing exceptions based on significant medical emergencies and/or conditions for the 2022–23 school year. Failure to adhere to this process or include all requested information may result in the need to resubmit the request or cause a delay in the response. All requests must be submitted for consideration through the Online Medical Exception Request System in NC Education's NCTest Admin. The requests must be submitted by the PSU test coordinator and be approved by the superintendent or school director.

### ***Adherence to the 10/20 Day Rule***

Per 16 N.C. Admin Code 06D. 0309, “Public school students may drop a course with a required EOC test within the first 10 days of enrollment in a semester block schedule or within the first 20 days of enrollment in a yearlong traditional schedule. Students who are enrolled for credit after the 10/20 days, regardless of course delivery (e.g., traditional classroom, NC Virtual Public School, vendor-based online) shall not drop a course with a required EOC test and shall participate in the appropriate EOC test at the completion of the course.”

Exceptions to the 10/20 day rule are allowed in individual cases where circumstances are in the best interest of the student to be removed from a course requiring an EOC test. These cases should be evaluated individually, and consideration should be given to ensure the accountability of the school is not compromised. Some examples of acceptable individual student withdrawals after the first 10/20 days of enrollment include the following:

- *Transfer student inappropriately placed in an EOC course.* If a student transfers into a school and his or her records do not arrive until after the first 10/20 days to inform a proper placement decision, the school has the latitude to withdraw the student from the EOC course and place the student in the appropriate course.
- *Student is withdrawn from a course to enroll in a higher-level course.* Occasionally, a student may be better served to withdraw from an EOC course and enroll in a higher-level course. In such cases, the student takes the appropriate test for the higher-level course; the school remains accountable through the higher-level course. Students must not be withdrawn from an EOC course and enrolled in a higher-level course within the last six weeks of the course.
- *There is a valid medical reason for removing a student from an EOC course.* In rare cases, an individual student may be deemed medically fragile because of a significant medical emergency or condition, such as an accident, that incapacitates the student for an extended period of time. In such instances, it may be in the student’s best interest to be withdrawn from a course.

The principal of the school should review each case individually and decide in consultation with the PSU test coordinator, teacher, and parent or guardian whether withdrawal from the course is necessary. If it is determined the student should be withdrawn from the course (after the first 10/20 days), the school must request approval from the Senior Director of the Office of Accountability and Testing using the *Process for Notification of Withdrawals after the 10/20 Days* in NCEducation. Schools should consult with the regional accountability office if there are questions about student eligibility or a specific situation not listed.

- *Process for Notification of Withdrawals after 10/20 Days.* 10/20 Day Withdrawal Requests are submitted through NC Education’s NCTest Admin. PSU test coordinators select “10/20 Day Withdrawal Request” from the right main menu and dropdown link. Complete the “Submit Request” tab. Please ensure supporting documentation (outlined below) is attached to the request before selecting the “submit” button at the bottom of the request form.
- *Supporting Documentation.* For all withdrawal requests, enrollment documentation is required (PowerSchool enrollment report and historical transcript). Some requests may need additional documentation for review (e.g., evidence of prior credit for a course [transcript, student score report], medical documentation, letter or notes from the homebound teacher).

Once a decision has been made, a response email will be generated through the online system for each request. This email will be addressed to the PSU test coordinator and copied to the RAC.

- If the request is approved, the school must notify the parent or guardian and the student in writing of any change to EOC testing requirements. Immediately following this notification, the school must remove the student from the course and change the student's schedule to reflect the new course code in PowerSchool. The school must ensure the student no longer attends the previously scheduled class and attends the new class. All documents pertaining to course withdrawals after the first 10/20 days must be kept on file by the PSU.
- If a request is denied, the student's original course code will be included in the school's accountability. Effective with the 2021–22 school year, students who are removed from a course with a corresponding EOC requirement after the 10th day of the semester, or the 20th day of a year-long course, without the Office of Accountability and Testing's approval, will count against participation rates as not tested.

Requests should be submitted as soon as the school is aware of the need, and not wait until the end of the year to submit requests while reviewing school data.

### ***English II End-of-Course Delayed Scoring***

English II EOC tests include multiple-choice and student-written constructed response questions. The constructed response questions are hand scored, and the time required to send the answer documents, online and paper, to the vendor and to complete the scoring process has an impact on the timeline for score return. Schools are advised to administer the English II EOC test as early in the test window as possible to facilitate optimal return of the scores.

For online English II EOC testing, which is required, the vendor begins scoring the first business day after test records are received and returns the scored online test records electronically to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) within approximately five business days of starting the scoring process. An additional day is required for processing the files from the scoring vendor to the NCDPI.

For PSUs administering the paper format of the English II EOC to students with a documented accessibility need that requires paper, the completed answer documents must be shipped by the PSU test coordinator to the vendor each test day. The scoring process will begin the morning after the answer documents are received by the vendor. Scored paper test records will be returned electronically to the NCDPI within eight business days of starting the scoring process. Test coordinators should allow nine business days to receive scored paper records, allowing the vendor time to complete the overnight upload process of returning completed scores to the NCDPI.

The attached table, *English II EOC Constructed Response Return Dates for 2022–23* summarizes the scoring windows and score return times for the 2022–23 assessment year.

### ***2022–23 Summer Programs***

For the 2022–23 school year, PSUs may administer the EOG and EOC tests during summer programs to students who have a current year test score. All summer programs must have local board approval.

As in previous years, the readministration scores will not be included in growth analyses for school accountability or for educator effectiveness. However, the higher score will be included in proficiency calculations for school accountability. The 2022–23 accountability year ends on July 6, 2023. Summer program EOG and EOC readministration scores uploaded to the Annual Testing Program by July 6, 2023, will be included in the 2022–23 school year accountability calculations. Summer program sessions with test scores uploaded to the Annual Testing Program after July 6, 2023, will be included in the 2023–24 school year accountability analyses.

As a reminder, no State Board of Education (SBE) policy exists that allows retesting. The inclusion of readministration scores in the 2022–23 school year accountability reports recognize summer programs are an additional learning opportunity that occurs outside of the regular academic calendar.

There are three ways students may participate in summer programs, take the associated EOG or EOC test, and have those results included in the accountability analyses for proficiency:

1. Repeating elements of a course or subject for the purpose of improving functional skills or to access an enrichment opportunity (EOG and EOC): There is not an SBE policy for this option; however, this opportunity is available to students who pass the course or subject but scored Not Proficient on the associated EOG or EOC test. These students do not earn credit, and the initial grade is not replaced.
2. Credit recovery (EOC only): As specified in SBE policy CCRE-001, *Course for Credit* (attached), enrollment in credit recovery is limited to students who have completed and failed a course. Credit recovery courses only provide a subset of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* (NCSCOS) for the original course. The length of the course must be based on the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover rather than a certain amount of seat time. When credit recovery is exercised, the original record of the course completion and failure remains on the transcript. No later than thirty days after completing a credit recovery course, students may be administered the associated EOC test for those courses with an EOC test. Schools administering the EOC test to students earning course credit through credit recovery must have an approved Flexible Testing Schedule Waiver on file with the Office of Accountability and Testing and must administer the EOC online.
3. Repeating a course for credit (EOC only): As specified in SBE policy CCRE-001, repeating a course for credit is limited to students who have completed and failed a course unless the local board of education has developed policies that define specific circumstances when students other than those who have failed a course may repeat a course for credit. When students repeat a course for credit, the entire NCSCOS for that course is taught to the student for a second time. Students who have already scored at Level 3, 4, or 5 on the associated EOC test may elect either to retake the EOC or to use the previous passing EOC score as at least twenty percent of their final grade. If a student retakes the EOC test, the higher of the two scores is used in the calculation of the final grade. For students who initially fail a high school course and repeat the course for credit, upon completion of the repeated course, the new course grade replaces the previous grade for the course. When a student repeats a course for credit and passes the course, the student only earns credit towards graduation once.

The distinction between credit recovery and repeating a course for credit is that the latter is for a student wishing to modify his or her grade point average (GPA). Repeating a course for credit allows students who initially fail a high school course and repeat the course for credit to have the initial grade replaced with the subsequent grade. Repeating a course for credit is also intended for students who need to repeat an entire course versus a select portion of a course. In credit recovery, students receive a grade of pass (P) or fail (F), and the P or F does not affect the student's GPA. The student retains the original record of the course being completed and failed on his/her transcript for credit recovery.

In addition to providing a summer program option, PSUs must also adhere to the following NCDPI requirements:

- Summer program remediation and readministrations of the EOG and EOC tests must occur after the conclusion of the student academic year (i.e., after students have been dismissed for the regular school year) but can occur on teacher workdays.
- Schools offering a summer program must have a written plan for the 2022–23 school year that has been signed and approved by their local board. A copy of the 2022–23 board-approved plan must be sent to the regional accountability office by April 3, 2023.
  - Plans should include, but are not limited to
    - the purpose of the program;
    - who is eligible to attend;
    - the dates the program will occur, to include days for remediation and readministrations;
    - the length (hours and minutes) provided daily for remediation and readministrations;
    - security of test materials; and
    - testing plan
- Online administrations are required for all summer program readministrations of the EOG and EOC tests. Technology hardship requests will not be accepted.
- Tests that are available for summer program readministrations include only the following:
  - EOG Grades 4–8 reading (grade 3 reading is not part of summer program due to Read to Achieve requirements)
  - EOG Grades 3–8 mathematics
  - EOG Grades 5 and 8 science
  - EOC English II, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, and biology
  - NCEXTEND1 Grades 3–8 reading, mathematics, and science
  - NCEXTEND1 Grade 10 English II, NC Math 1, and biology
- Schools must notify parents about the summer program including, but not limited to, the dates it will occur, its purpose, and who is eligible to attend.
- Student participation is voluntary. Parents or guardians must make the final decision regarding a student's summer program attendance. Students must be held harmless if they do not participate in summer programs.
- Students who do not attend any summer program remediation must not be permitted to participate in the readministration opportunity. This should be addressed in the PSU summer program plan approved by the local board.

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Note: The EOG Reading test at grade 3 will not be available for readministration during summer programs. The Read to Achieve (RtA) General Statute §115C-83.8(a) states that “students not demonstrating reading proficiency shall be enrolled in a reading camp provided by the local school administrative unit prior to being retained.” The reading camp program has specific parameters and funding provided to PSUs. The RtA reading camps must be separate from summer programs; RtA camps are not impacted by the allowances in this memo.

***Four-year Cohort Graduation Rate for Cooperative Innovative High Schools Reminder***

In June 2020, a memo was sent to LEA Superintendents regarding a change to the Cohort Graduation Rate calculation for Cooperative Innovative High Schools. The attached memo is being provided as a reminder that the change is effective with the 2020–21 ninth grade cohort and will be applied to the 2023–24 Cohort Graduation Rate results. Student course enrollment should be reviewed to ensure the necessary credits are earned by the end of the 2023–24 school year. The Cohort Graduation Rate for Cooperative Innovative High Schools in the 2022–23 school year will continue to be reported as it has historically.

Please share the annual testing updates information found in this memo and the attachments locally. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your regional accountability office.

MM:TLH

c: Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent  
Andrew Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Innovation  
Sherry Thomas, Senior Director, Office of Exceptional Children  
Ashley Baquero, Interim Director, Office of Charter Schools  
Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting  
Maxey Moore, Section Chief, Test Development  
Shannon Jordan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations  
Regional Accountability Coordinators  
Test Coordinators

Attachments: Process for Medical Exceptions  
English II EOC Constructed Response Return Dates for 2022–23  
Policy CCRE-001 (Course for Credit)  
Cohort Graduation Rate for Cooperative Innovative High Schools

## Process for Requesting Testing Exceptions Based on Significant Medical Emergencies and/or Conditions

The following steps outline the process for requesting testing exceptions based on significant medical emergencies and/or conditions for the 2022–23 school year. Failure to adhere to this process or include all requested information may result in the need to resubmit the request and may cause a delay in response.

1. Public school unit superintendents or directors must support the appeal and submit an online request to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) through the Online Medical Exception Request System in NC Education’s NCTest Admin. The parent must be notified that such a request is being submitted and must give consent.
2. The online request must include the following information:
  - **Semester**
  - **School Name**
  - **Student Name**
  - **Administration Type** (e.g., Regular or NCEXTEND1)
  - **Test(s) Requested** (multiple tests may be requested)
  - **Student Type** (indicate if the student has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP), current Section 504 Plan, transitory impairment documentation, or Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP))
  - **Test Window** (school test window)
  - **Date of Onset** of the emergency and/or condition
  - **Expected Duration/Recovery Period**
  - **Days of Instruction Missed** (all requests must include an attendance record)
  - **Homebound** (indicate if the student is homebound)  
Students receiving homebound services are expected to test. If a student is homebound and unable to test because of a significant medical emergency and/or condition, the medical exception justification and supporting documents must clearly detail why the student is unable to be tested in a homebound setting (include attendance records for homebound sessions and a letter from the homebound teacher). Assessments can be administered to students in a homebound setting, provided that test administrators and proctors are appropriately trained.
  - **Medical Issue**  
Briefly describe the student’s current medical condition(s).
  - **Description of how the medical issue/condition prevents participation in the respective assessment(s)**  
Briefly describe how the medical issue/condition impacts daily instruction/classroom participation and prevents participation in the respective test administration(s). This explanation should include sufficient details and documented data (scanned attachments) that provides the review committee a thorough understanding of the implications of the emergency and/or condition on the student’s learning.
  - **Parent Notification** (indicate yes or no if parent has been notified)
  - **Affirmation** (approval by the public school unit superintendent or director to submit the request)



- **Supporting Documents**

All requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation. If a student has an IEP, current Section 504 Plan, transitory impairment documentation, and/or BIP, the most recent version of the full documentation must be scanned and accompany the request. Supporting documentation is required in the event the NC Testing Program is audited.

- **IEP:** scan and attach a complete copy of the current DEC 4 IEP form (including present levels of performance, IEP goals, special education services, etc.) to this request.
- **BIP:** scan and attach a complete copy of the current BIP as well as the Functional Behavioral Assessment.
- **Section 504:** scan and attach a copy of the current Section 504 documentation.

Additionally, current school year substantiating documentation to support a request for medical treatment or hospital confinement, etc. such as medical documentation, concussion form, statements of treatment or release from medical facilities, seizure logs, and/or doctor's notes must be scanned and accompany the request. These documents need not violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Notes from doctors and medical professionals should address and/or explain the impact of the condition on the student but should not provide a testing recommendation.

If information is missing in the request, a resubmission may be required.

The Office of Accountability and Testing does not process the following medical exception submissions:

- Requests for field test administrations. It is a local decision as to how requests for medical exceptions are to be processed for field tests.
- Requests for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Proofs of Learning (POL). These include: CTE state assessments, third party assessments, local assessments, CTE indicator POL assessments, credentials, and performance-based measures. The Office of CTE, Reporting and Assessment section determines special exceptions for these courses. Contact Misty Wolfe, [misty.wolfe@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:misty.wolfe@dpi.nc.gov) for questions or concerns about CTE POL medical exceptions

### Medical Exceptions Submission Timeline for 2022–23

Medical Emergency/Situation	Deadline for Submission
Fall testing window	March 3, 2023
Spring testing window	June 26, 2023

3. Submit requests for consideration through the Online Medical Exception Request System in NC Education's NCTest Admin. Do not email, mail, or fax requests.

4. The NCDPI will provide an email response with a statement of the decision to the public school unit test coordinator. This email will only identify the student by the assigned “Request ID #” in the Online Medical Exception Request System.
5. Students who are approved for a testing exception are coded for data analysis purposes by the NCDPI.
6. Any exception granted by the NCDPI is limited to the testing period for the specific test(s) for which it was requested and does not carry forward to future test administrations, unless noted in the NCDPI decision.

It is the expectation of the NCDPI that only those students who the public school unit believes are unable to participate in a state assessment are submitted for a medical exception request. Students who are granted a medical exception shall not be reported or counted in the school, district, or state test scores and will not be included in the calculation of the 95 percent tested rule. In addition, students who are granted an exception are required to meet all state and local graduation requirements before receiving a high school diploma.

Please be reminded that any written material containing identifiable student information shall not be disseminated or otherwise made available to the public by any member of the State Board of Education, any employee of the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, any employee of the NCDPI, any member of a local board of education, any employee of a local board of education, or any other person, except as permitted under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. §1232g. If you have questions regarding requests for testing exceptions based on significant medical emergencies and/or conditions, please contact Wendy Wooten at [wendy.wooten@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:wendy.wooten@dpi.nc.gov).

## English II EOC Constructed Response Return Dates for 2022–23

Test Cycle Window	Online Testing Window Opens	Scoring Begins <sup>1</sup>	Return Time for Scores <sup>2</sup>	Online Testing Window Closes (NCTest Closes) <sup>3</sup>	Paper Shipping Deadline <sup>4</sup>
<b>Fall Flexible</b>	September 6, 2022	September 7, 2022	<b>After September 20<sup>th</sup></b> <b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days <b>Paper:</b> apx 9 business days	February 7, 2023	February 2, 2023
<b>September CDM (Fall)</b>	September 19, 2022	September 20, 2022 (online scoring only)	<b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days	September 30, 2022	Paper administrations not permitted
<b>Fall 2022</b>	November 15, 2022	November 16, 2022 Vendor scoring will pause Dec 22, 2022 –Jan 2, 2023	<b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days <b>Paper:</b> apx 9 business days	February 7, 2023	February 2, 2023
<b>February CDM (Spring)</b>	February 15, 2023	February 16, 2023 (online scoring only)	<b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days	February 28, 2023	Paper administrations not permitted
<b>Spring Flexible</b>	February 15, 2023	February 16, 2023	<b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days <b>Paper:</b> apx 9 business days	June 26, 2023 <sup>5</sup>	June 21, 2023 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Spring 2023</b>	April 14, 2023	April 17, 2023 (online and paper scoring)	<b>NCTest Online:</b> apx 6 business days <b>Paper:</b> apx 9 business days	June 26, 2023 <sup>5</sup>	June 21, 2023 <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tests are scored in order of receipt. Test records are scored independent of each other and will not be organized by public school unit, school, or classroom especially in the case of NCTest online records.

<sup>2</sup>The score return timeline begins with the first business day following the receipt of the test records to be scored.

<sup>3</sup>Online test administrations and coding must be completed before 7:00 p.m. Online test records received after this date will not be scored until the next online test record scoring window.

<sup>4</sup>All paper materials must be shipped to the vendor by the deadline for each test cycle. Materials shipped after the deadline will not be scored until the next paper scoring window.

<sup>5</sup>Any spring 2023 online test records received after June 26, 2023 will be scored starting on July 6, 2023. This data will not be included in 2022–23 accountability calculations.

<sup>6</sup>Any spring 2023 paper test records shipped after June 21, 2023 will be scored starting July 6, 2023. This data will not be included in 2022–23 accountability calculations.

**Policy CCRE-001: Course for Credit** 

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 09/07/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/13/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/13/2021

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Policy Manual**

Item	Description
<b>Policy Title</b>	Course for Credit
<b>Policy Category</b>	Course for Credit (CCRE)
<b>Policy ID</b>	CCRE-001
<b>Policy Date</b>	05/13/2021
<b>Previous Policy Dates</b>	05/05/1988, 08/02/2001, 02/07/2002, 12/05/2002, 07/01/2004, 11/04/2004, 05/03/2007, 06/05/2008, 06/04/2009, 10/01/2009, 12/02/2010, 12/06/2012, 12/06/2012, 12/06/2012, 12/05/2013, 05/01/2014, 08/06/2015, 11/05/2015, 02/02/2017, 06/01/2017, 09/07/2017, 06/07/2018, 02/07/2019, 06/06/2019
<b>Statutory Reference</b>	GS 115C-8

1. Each local board of education shall ensure that all required and elective courses have sufficient rigor, breadth, and depth to be awarded high school credit, in accordance with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
2. A high school principal shall award course credit toward high school graduation based upon a student's demonstration of sufficient mastery of the standards for a course as defined in the NC Standard Course of Study. Current graduation requirements are found in SBE policy GRAD-004.

2.1 Credit toward high school graduation may be awarded for: high school courses included in the NC Standard Course of Study, including those provided by the NC Virtual Public School; Advanced Placement courses; International Baccalaureate courses; Cambridge International Examination courses; locally developed high school courses; and public university, community college, and private college courses.

2.2 Course instructors shall provide instruction on the complete standards for the course as outlined in the NC Standard Course of Study, the Advanced Placement syllabus, the International Baccalaureate syllabus, or the locally-developed course syllabus, as appropriate.

2.3 Credit for the following courses must be earned through the high school (Grade 9 and beyond) except where indicated otherwise:

#### English

- English I: This credit may be earned prior to Grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan;
- English II: This credit shall be earned in the high school, Grade 9 or beyond;
- English III and English IV: These credits may be earned with appropriate college-level course(s).

#### Math

- NC Math 1, NC Math 2, and NC Math 3: These credits may be prior to Grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan;
- The fourth math credit may be earned in middle school or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC institutions must successfully complete four mathematics courses that include a mathematics course with NC Math 3 as a pre-requisite.

#### Science

- Earth/environmental science: This credit may be earned prior to Grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- Physical science: This credit may be earned prior to Grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- Biology: This credit may be earned prior to Grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s).

#### Social studies

For students who entered Grade 9 for the first time between 2014-2015 and 2019-2020:

- American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics: This credit may be earned in middle school. This course must follow the NCSCOS in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge International Examination (CIE) course, dual enrollment or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.
- World History: This credit may be earned in middle school or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- American History I and American History II: These credits may be earned in middle school or with an appropriate college-level course(s).
- Economics and Personal Finance: This credit shall be earned in high school, grade 9 and beyond.

For students who enter Grade 9 for the first time in 2020-21 and beyond:

- American History: This credit may be earned prior to grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- The Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy: This credit may be earned prior to grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- World History: This credit may be earned prior to grade 9 as part of an accelerated plan or with an appropriate college-level course(s);
- Economics and Personal Finance: This credit shall only be earned in high school, grade 9 and beyond.

#### Health and Physical Education

- The health and physical education credit may be earned with an appropriate college-level course(s). Refer to 2.4 below;
- The CPR requirement may be met through instruction in the middle school, or by providing documentation of successful completion of an instructional program and/or test approved by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. [see GS §115C-81 (e1)]

#### Electives and other credits

- Elective credits may be earned with an appropriate college/university college-level course(s); World Language credits may be earned in middle school or with an appropriate college/university college-

level course(s). Students seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC institutions must successfully complete two credits of a single world language.

- Credit requirements added in the future may be earned in middle school for disciplines where such credit is currently allowed (English, math, science, social studies, and world languages), or with an appropriate college/university college-level course(s), unless explicitly prohibited in this or other State Board of Education policies.

Note: Graduation requirements are determined when a student enters Grade 9 for the first time. High school courses may be taken prior to Grade 9 with an accelerated plan as outlined above for high school course credits. These credits may satisfy specific graduation requirements if those courses are part of the graduation requirements as outlined in GRAD-004 when a student enters Grade 9.

2.4 Students may earn dual credit for any high school course and meet graduation requirements using an appropriate college course or combination of college courses. Principals shall award dual credit according to the Career and College Promise program guidelines established by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). For courses not addressed by DPI guidance, a principal may award dual credit for a college course if an evaluation of the course content against NC Standard Course of Study requirements demonstrates that the college course offers substantial coverage of the high school course standards.

2.5 Prior to 2018-19 academic school year, college and university courses shall earn high school dual credit as specified below:

Semester Hours Credit***	High School Credits
1-4*	1
5-8**	2
9 or more**	3

\*For college courses having an associated lab component (such as math or foreign language lab), the combination of the course and the lab count as a single course and earn one credit only.

\*\* These occur only in certain Career and Technical Education courses.

\*\*\* High school credit applies to college courses in college curriculum programs.

2.6 Beginning with the 2018-19 academic school year, college and university courses shall earn high school dual credit as specified below:

College Semester Hours Credit	High School Credits
1-2	0
3-4	1
5-8	2
9 or more	3

College credit is determined by the course credit value indicated officially by the college system, such as, the Combined Course Library for the NC Community College System. College class hours and lab hours shall not be combined to equal high school course credit. However, college course credit may be combined when two or more courses of one or two semester hour credits are taken in the same academic year.

High school credit applies to college courses in college curriculum programs.

Effective 2019-20, high school credit may be awarded for articulated Career and College Promise (CCP) Workforce Continuing Education pathways that have been approved by the CCP Leadership Team (CCPLT) and do not duplicate efforts by the high school. The CCPLT consists of representatives from NCDPI Career and Technical Education Advanced Learning and Gifted Education Divisions and Community College System Office representatives from Workforce Continuing Education, Career and Technical Education, and Academic Programs.

3. Students in grades 6-8 who pass English I and/or mathematics, science, social studies, or world language courses that are described in and aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12 may use the course(s) to meet high school graduation requirements. Such course(s) shall count toward meeting graduation requirements and the number of credits required to graduate, and shall appear on the high school transcript. These courses shall not be included in the calculation of students' high school Grade Point Average (GPA). Student GPA shall be computed only with courses taken during high school.

4. An e-learning course qualifies for course credit if it meets the following requirements:

4.1 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may partner with eligible providers of e-learning opportunities other than the North Carolina Virtual Public School. Eligible providers shall meet all of the following:

- Be accredited by a regional accrediting agency such as, but not limited to, AdvancEd or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- Employ teachers who hold teaching licenses from states that participate in the NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse.
- Ensure that courses offered to North Carolina students are aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

4.2 Where available, EOG tests, EOC tests, and post-assessments must be used as an indicator of student mastery. The student's base school schedules and administers EOC and EOG tests. These scores shall be included in the determination of the base school's state and federal accountability reports.

4.3 Enrollment in an e-learning “for credit course” shall count towards satisfying local board requirements related to minimum instructional days, seat time policies, student attendance, athletic and/or extracurricular obligations. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are instructed to be purposeful in establishing processes and procedures to enroll and manage such e-learning students in an environment where they can be successful.

5. Credit may not be awarded for school bus driving, office assistance, teacher assistance, or laboratory assistance.

6. Credit recovery shall be governed by the following definitions and parameters:

#### Credit Recovery

6.1 The term “credit recovery” will be used to refer to a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study for that course. Credit recovery delivers a subset of the Standard Course of Study or blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student’s mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion.

6.2 The length of credit recovery courses shall be dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not be a fixed length of seat time. When credit recovery is exercised, the original record of the course being completed and failed will remain on the transcript.

6.3 The LEA shall allow a grade pass or a fail for each credit recovery course. The mark will not affect the student’s GPA.

6.4 A student wishing to modify his or her GPA shall repeat a course for credit and not seek a credit recovery solution.

6.5 A local school board may not limit the number of credit recovery courses taken by a student prior to graduation.

6.6 The End-of-Course (EOC) exam associated with the credit recovery course may be administered no later than 30 days upon the completion of the credit recovery course.

6.7 By the beginning of 2019-20 school year, the LEA shall develop local policy and procedures addressing the implementation of credit recovery opportunities across the school district to support student achievement. At a minimum, credit recovery policies and procedures shall address factors for student participation, content alignment to original course, instructional delivery methods and a process to ensure consistency in implementation across the district.

7. Repeating a course for credit shall be governed by the following definitions and parameters

#### Repeating a Course for Credit

7.1 The term “repeating a course for credit” will be used to refer to a high school course repeated via any delivery method when the entire Standard Course of Study for that course is being taught to the student for a second time.

7.2 Students are permitted to repeat a course for credit when they have failed a course. Local boards of education may develop policies that define specific circumstances when students other than those who fail a course may repeat a course for credit.

7.3 Students repeating a course for credit shall receive a grade and take the associated End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. Those students who have already scored at Level 3, 4, or 5 on the associated EOC assessment may elect either to retake the EOC or use the previous passing EOC score as at least 20% of their final grade. If the student retakes the EOC, the higher of the two scores will be used in the calculation of the final grade.

7.4 Beginning in 2015–16, for students who initially fail a high school course and repeat the course for credit, upon completion of the repeated course, the new course grade shall replace the previous grade for the course.

7.5 When a student repeats a course for credit and passes the course, the student only earns credit towards graduation once.

8. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)

8.1 Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which LEAs shall, based upon a body-of-evidence, award



a student credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time.

8.2 "Mastery" is defined as a student's command of course material at a level that demonstrates a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge.

8.3 Credit by Demonstrated Mastery shall be available for all NC students in grades 9-12 for high school courses and in grades 6-8 for high school courses offered in middle school. LEAs may choose to make CDM available for students in grades 6-8 for middle grades content.

8.4 Students shall demonstrate mastery through a multi-phase assessment, consisting of (1) a standard examination, which shall be the EOC/EOG where applicable, or a final exam developed locally and (2) an artifact which requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards. LEAs may require additional requirements, such as performance tasks. This multi-phase assessment process builds a body-of-evidence that allows a committee to determine if the student has a deep understanding of the standards for the course or subject area, as defined by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, thereby earning credit for the course without experiencing it in the school setting.

8.5 DPI shall develop implementation guidelines for this policy. These guidelines shall provide guidance for LEAs regarding scoring of assessments as well as local implementation. The guidelines shall establish minimum scores for the standard examination and artifact creation. Students must attain minimum scores to earn Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.

8.6 The following courses are excluded from Credit by Demonstrated Mastery:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) work-based learning courses (refer to CTED-003 for work-based learning policy);
- CTE courses that have a clinical setting as a requirement of the course, such as ProStart, Early Childhood Education I/II and Nursing Fundamentals;
- CTE Advanced Studies courses;
- CTE courses in pilot and/or field test status;
- English Language Learner (ELL) courses;
- Healthful Living required courses;
- AP, IB, and CIE courses; and
- Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Occupational Preparation I, II, III, and IV courses.

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## Supporting Documents



[Guidelines Credit by Demonstrated Mastery \(CDM\) June 2016.pdf](#)

## Supporting Links

CDM Guide - <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/4yDsDPTzHJGgGg9U6Afgew==>



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.DPI.NC.GOV

June 24, 2020

**TO** LEA Superintendents

**FROM** David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent  
Deputy Superintendent of Innovation

Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director  
Advanced Learning and Gifted Education

Tammy Howard, Director  
Division of Accountability Services

## **FOUR-YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATE FOR COOPERATIVE INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS**

This memo addresses a change to the Cohort Graduation Rate calculation for Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS). The change is effective with the incoming ninth grade cohort in the 2020–21 school year.

Currently, some CIHS are approved to report a 4-year cohort graduation rate that is based on students having five years to complete the requirements. A review of federal law has affirmed this practice is not permissible.

To align with this requirement, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is developing a transition plan for CIHS to include all students at the completion of their fourth year in the cohort.

Beginning with incoming ninth graders in the 2020–21 school year, students enrolled in a CIHS that offer a fifth year (Grade 13) are required to have completed the 22 high school graduation requirements outlined in SBE GRAD-004 by the end of their fourth year of high school.

These students will be included in the 2023–24 school year 4-year cohort graduation rate as having met the 22 credits for graduation or as not having met these requirements. CIHS students may continue to complete additional local graduation requirements established by the local education agency during their fifth year, as well as continue to complete college courses and degrees or career credentials aligned to their high school plan of study.

CIHS students do not need to graduate from high school at the end of the four years and may continue to engage a fifth year as a Cooperative Innovative High School student. However, all

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June 24, 2020  
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SBE graduation requirements must be completed by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The process for documenting these students will be developed at a later date.

As always, thank you for your commitment to our students and schools. If additional information is needed, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator or Sneha Shah-Coltrane at [Sneha.ShahColtrane@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Sneha.ShahColtrane@dpi.nc.gov).

DS:SSC:TLH

- c: Cooperative Innovative High School Administrators
- Career and College Promise District Contacts
- LEA Chief Academic Officers and Academic Leaders
- LEA Test Coordinators