Kentucky Department of Education  
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Frequently Asked Questions  
End-Of-Course (EOC) Assessments  
Edition 1

Basic Premise

- The state-required End-of-Course (EOC) assessments are: English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History. The EOC exam is an assessment given at the end of the course.
- English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History courses are graduation requirements.
- Student scores from EOC assessments contribute to school and district accountability.
- A student’s end-of-course test result may be used for a percentage of a student’s final grade in the course, as outlined in local policy. If that percentage is less than 20%, school districts will submit reports to KDE providing justification.
- Given the variety of courses in these subject areas, the EOC assessment is required each time the student takes the course designated as the graduation requirement for English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History.
- There is not a state graduation requirement to meet benchmark scores on the EOC assessments. A student may not perform well on the test, but pass the course.
- Students who have taken EOC-assessed courses and meet graduation requirements prior to the 2011-2012 school year do not take the EOC exam.

Students

1. Who takes the EOC test?
   Any student who completes the course, with or without credit, takes the EOC assessment.

2. If a student withdraws from the EOC course, does he/she take the EOC exam?
   Any student who completes 55% of the course is expected to take the EOC exam. (The 55% is based on the percentage 100 days is to the full school year.)

3. If a student retakes a section or part of the EOC course, do they retake the EOC exam?
   Students combining half (A/B) or thirds (A/B/C) of a course into one course must take the EOC exam at the end of the course. Any student who retakes 55% of the course is expected to retake the EOC exam.
4. If a student transfers in from a private, out-of-state or another Kentucky public school during the year and has already completed one of these courses and earned full credit at the sending institution which is accepted by the receiving school, does he/she have to take the EOC exam?
No, the receiving school played no part in instructing the student.

5. If a student transfers in from a private, out-of-state or another Kentucky public school during the year and has received partial credit to date (e.g., has earned half a credit due to having completed one semester) and enrolls in the course to complete it, does he/she have to take the EOC exam?
Yes, because the receiving school would have a role in instructing the student. The full academic year (100 days of enrollment) rules will determine whether the student is included in the school or district accountability.

6. Will students be expected to take the EOC exams who are taking credit recovery?
Yes, if the credit recovery provides the student the mechanism to earn the graduation credit in English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History.

7. Do LEP students take the EOC assessments?
   a. LEP students who are in their first year of enrollment in a U.S. school are exempt from accountability assessments. Note: Students may be required to attempt mathematics and science (e.g., completing 4 multiple-choice items or 1 constructed-response item) for NCLB participation rate.
   b. LEP students who are in their second year of enrollment or more fully participate in all state-required assessments, with appropriate accommodations as outlined in their Program Services Plan (PSP).

8. How are students handled that legitimately have an incomplete in the course and receive credit during summer school?
   a. Students who withdraw from a course due to legitimate reasons (i.e., medical) and take a course in the summer would be offered a summer test window.
   b. Accountability is based on the 100 day rule, but the student score may be counted in the following year depending on the processing time to produce summer reports for accountability.
Administration

1. Will the format be all multiple-choice (MC) or a combination of multiple-choice and constructed response (CR)?

   A combination, the EOC tests have both multiple-choice and constructed-response items.

2. Will End-of-Course testing be online?

   a. Online testing will be offered for the multiple-choice items. Constructed responses will be paper/pencil.

   b. If a school cannot take advantage of online testing due to technical or scheduling issues, students can take the test with paper and pencil.

3. If a school uses the paper/pencil option when will the school receive scores?

   ACT will return results 10 days after ACT receives the documents. Note: For online test takers, immediate results are available on multiple-choice.

4. If a student is exempt from final exams by school or district policy/rewards, does he/she take the EOC assessments?

   Yes, the EOC administration is a state requirement.

5. Will students be able to use the EOC assessment to test out of the course?

   No, course credit is not awarded based on student performance on the EOC.

6. Are students with disabilities allowed accommodations with EOC assessments?

   Yes. Accommodations must be consistent with the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan or Program Services Plan and with the rules outlined in Inclusion of Special Populations in State-Required Assessments 703 KAR 5:070.

7. How will test security be addressed?

   The Administration Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Programs 703 KAR 5:080 covers all state-required assessments including EOC. Because EOC will have multiple administration test windows, forms of the EOC will be varied to increase security of the items.

8. Will EOC exams change every year or stay the same?

   a. The assessment will have new forms introduced annually.

   b. The Test Blueprints/Course Descriptions/Standards for each EOC test will not change without notice.
9. Will the EOC be administered immediately at the end of the class? If so, this would mean different testing dates for schools on block, trimester, and traditional schedules?
   a. Ideally, the EOC test will be administered as instruction concludes. Test schedules will need to be developed to rotate students through available computers to complete the online testing. Larger schools may require more days to complete the four state-required EOC tests and may want to use paper/pencil format.
   b. Multiple testing windows will be available throughout the year to accommodate the variety of course schedules.

10. Will higher level classes (calculus, etc.) have EOC exams?
    The current contract is for four state-required EOC tests. Additional EOC tests may be added in the future.

11. Do schools have to rename the courses to match the EOC exams?
    No. Districts and schools offering courses with different names (i.e., integrated math) will need to identify which course or combination of courses meet the graduation requirement for English II, Algebra II, U.S. History and Biology. The EOC test should be completed for the course in which the student earns the graduation requirement.

12. When do students test if there are Integrated Courses (i.e., Integrated Science 1, 2 and 3)?
    Schools will need to evaluate their courses as compared to the EOC requirements. Schools will then select the appropriate course to administer the EOC. For example, the EOC test for Biology has a syllabus, instructional support materials and a test blueprint to help administrators evaluate which course covers the content assessed on the EOC test.

13. Will EOC testing windows overlap with regular testing window?
    Multiple test windows will be available for EOC tests. For courses that complete near the end of the school calendar, the EOC tests may overlap other testing (i.e., grades 3-8 and on-demand writing at grades 10 and 11).

14. Will KDE provide professional development on QualityCore®?
    a. KDE will explore options to provide some Implementation training via webinars or other methods.
    b. Districts may provide their own PD or purchase PD.
Accountability

1. How will EOC test scores be included in accountability?
   EOC test scores and separate writing scores contribute to the high school accountability in the categories of Achievement and Gap. Writing includes on-demand (grades 10 and 11) and editing and mechanics in PLAN (grade 10).

2. Does the 100 day rule apply to EOC?
   Students must be enrolled in the school for 100 days for EOC scores to be accountable to the school. The 100 day window will be based on the district accountability date (i.e., the summative test window in the last fourteen days of the district’s instructional calendar).

3. How will schools, districts and the state document students tested and students accountable?
   An annual roster collection process will be developed. The roster will reflect the 100 day rule for students and reasons for non-participation.

4. How will accountability be handled for schools that change the sequence of courses they offer and the new sequence reduces greatly the number of students in specific courses during the transition year?
   KDE will develop a waiver process. The waiver process will determine how results are reported in accountability.

5. For grade 8 students taking the EOC exams, are their scores used for accountability at the high school?
   Yes, if the course is counting for high school credit. It is KDE’s policy to track student scores to school accountability.

6. How are early graduates included in accountability?
   a. Early graduates must have earned credits in the required courses. As the student earns the credit in courses with EOC tests, he/she completes the tests.
   b. The 100 day rule does not work with early graduates (i.e., December graduates).
   c. In order to include mid-year early graduates, a new accountability rule would be required.