

The following updates are provided in response to questions from schools and families about required testing for students. The evolving medical crisis will continue to influence decisions related to state and district testing. The responses provided reflect the latest directives from the state Department of Education and our national and international assessment partners. As more information becomes available this document will be updated.

## Florida State Assessments and End of Course Exams

### Has the state cancelled the Florida State Assessments (FSAs) and End of Course tests (EOCs) for the 2019-20 school year?

Yes. The [Governor's Executive Order No. 20-52](#) states, "All remaining state assessments for K-12 are canceled for the 2019-2020 school year." These state assessments include all FSA and End of Course assessments in Algebra, Biology, Geometry, Civics, and US History.

### How does the change to state testing impact the graduation and promotion requirements for current students?

- **Current seniors (students who entered as 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2016-17 school year):**  
The [Governor's Executive Order No. 20-52](#) states, "students who are in the 2019-2020 high school graduating class are exempt from being required to use assessments to earn a standard high school diploma." Therefore, if seniors have earned the total credits needed, passed the required courses, and attained the required GPA to graduate, then they are eligible to graduate this year.
- **Middle school students and high school students in grades 9-11 who:**
  - are **currently enrolled in an Algebra 1** course with an associated EOC will not take the EOC this year, but will be required to meet the math assessment graduation requirement in one of three ways:
    - pass a future administration of the Algebra 1 EOC (offered four times per year), or
    - earn a concordant score, or
    - pass a future administration of the Geometry EOC.
  - have not passed the **Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) FSA** must still meet the exit criteria by:
    - passing a future administration of that assessment, or
    - earning a concordant score.
  - are currently enrolled in **courses that require an EOC** will not take the associated EOC, with the exception of Algebra 1 (above).
  - are currently enrolled in courses that requires an **EOC to be factored into their final grade**, this requirement is waived.
- **Grade 3 promotion**  
As the Grade 3 ELA FSA will not be administered, promotion of third graders will be based on classroom performance, progress monitoring data with parent, teacher and principal consultation, as needed.

### Has the state cancelled the summer FSA and EOC tests for the 2019-20 school year?

Information about summer assessments will be forthcoming from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE).



## Student Assessment and Grades

### Frequently Asked Questions

Information current as of 3/27/20

## Classroom Grading and Promotion

### **Will my student earn grades for the work they complete during this time of digital learning?**

Yes. Students will continue to earn grades based on their progress in their classes. Student grades and credits will continue to count toward promotion and/or graduation.

### **If the state EOCs in Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Geometry, Civics, and US History are not administered, how will grades for these courses be calculated as the EOC is supposed to be 30% of the final grade?**

For students currently enrolled in courses that include a statewide EOC to be factored into the student's grade, the requirement for the EOC to be 30% of the final grade has been waived by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). The district will issue guidance to schools that the second semester grade be calculated by averaging the Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 grades. Student transcripts will show a Semester 1 final grade and Semester 2 final grade, not a year-long grade for this year. This will not impact college reviews of acceptances in the future.

### **Are district final exams still planned for students in middle and high school?**

The district will continue to review the situation. More guidance regarding final exams and grades will be provided to staff and students in the future.

### **Have the promotion rules for students been impacted?**

Students will be promoted based on classroom performance, progress monitoring data, and parent, teacher and principal consultation, as needed. Teachers will continue to grade work and update progress within FOCUS. Parents can check Parent Portal to view their student's progress. If a parent has a question regarding progress, they should reach out to the teacher through email to arrange a time for a discussion.

As the Grade 3 ELA FSA will not be administered, promotion of third graders will be based on classroom performance, progress monitoring data with parent, teacher and principal consultation, as needed.

## College Entrance Exams

### **Are the SAT exams canceled?**

The SAT and SAT Subject Test administrations for May 2, 2020 have been canceled by CollegeBoard, the SAT governing body. Makeup exams for the March 14<sup>th</sup> administration (scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>) are also canceled. Students who already registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores because of any irregularities will receive refunds from the College Board. The SAT has not yet canceled the June administration. Updates directly from the College Board can be found at: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/collegeboard-covid-19-updates>.

### **Are the ACT exams canceled?**

ACT has rescheduled its April national and international tests. All students registered in April test dates will receive an email from ACT informing them of the postponement and instructions for free rescheduling to June or a future test date. Updates directly from ACT can be found at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>.

## National and International Advanced Coursework Exams

### **Have the Advanced Placement (AP) exams been canceled for this school year?**

No, AP exams have not been cancelled. For the 2019–20 exam administration only, **students will take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home.** National, educator-led development committees are currently selecting the exam questions that will be administered. The district will continue to communicate with AP teachers and students as more information becomes available by the College Board, the governing body of AP exams. Updates about AP exams directly from the College Board can be found at: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>.

### **Are PCS students enrolled in an AP course still required to take the AP Exam?**

Yes, at this time students enrolled in AP courses in Pinellas County Schools are required to take the AP Exam. In alignment with Pinellas County Schools' Board Policy, taking an AP exam provides the opportunity for our students to earn college credit free of charge to parents.

### **Have the International Baccalaureate (IB) exams canceled for this school year?**

Yes, IB exams have been canceled. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), the governing body for IB exams announced that the May 2020 examinations, scheduled between April 30 and May 22, will no longer be held. IBO has communicated that “depending on what they registered for, the student will be awarded a Diploma or a Course Certificate which reflects their standard of work. This is based on student's coursework and the established assessment expertise, rigor and quality control already built into the programmes.” IBO will be issuing full details and FAQs in the near future. The district will communicate with IB coordinators, teachers and students as more information becomes available by the IBO. Updates about AP exams directly from the IBO can be found at: <https://ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/may-2020-examinations-will-no-longer-be-held/>

### **Have Cambridge AICE exams cancelled for this school year?**

Yes, AICE exams have been cancelled. Cambridge International, the governing body for Cambridge AICE exams, has made the decision not to run international examinations in the May/June 2020 series in any country. Cambridge International is currently working to set up the most appropriate and fair process to provide results and assess grades for June 2020 series. The district will continue to communicate with Cambridge AICE Coordinators, teachers and students as more information becomes available by the Cambridge International. Updates about AICE exams directly from the Cambridge International can be found at: <https://help.cambridgeinternational.org/hc/en-gb/articles/360006532458-Novel-coronavirus-Information-for-schools-about-the-COVID-19-coronavirus-outbreak>