



## Academics, Grades, and Assessments

The purpose of this FAQ document is to provide clarification based on the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) guidance memo.

### Assessments, Accountability and Promotion

- All remaining assessments for school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten and K-12 assessments are cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Requirements for graduation and promotion, and final course grades will be evaluated as though those assessments which were cancelled did not exist.
- Eligibility for Florida Bright Futures scholarships shall be based on available data and results. Tests that were not available to be taken shall not be counted.

### Has the state canceled the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and End of Course Assessments (EOC) for the 2019-2020 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 EOC assessments in Algebra 1, Biology, Geometry, Civics, and US History.

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

Seniors: The following exceptions are for current seniors and/or previously declared early graduates.

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. This waiver will also apply for students that graduate in the summer of 2020.

Non-seniors: The following exceptions are for students enrolled in high school credit course(s) who are not seniors or previously declared early graduates.

Non-seniors currently enrolled in courses requiring an EOC will not be required to take the EOC assessment. The requirement that the EOC be calculated as 30% of the final course grade was waived by the FDOE.

Non-seniors are still required to meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement based on one of the following options:

pass a future administration of the Algebra 1 EOC (offered four times per year),

earn a concordant score, or

pass a future administration of the Geometry EOC.

Non-seniors who have not yet passed the Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) FSA must still meet the reading assessment graduation requirement in one of two ways:

pass a future administration of that assessment, or

earn a concordant score.

3rd Grade Promotion: The following exception is for current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

Students in third grade must demonstrate successful and independent reading skills and be performing at or above level in reading and language arts. Since the Grade 3 ELA FSA data will not

be available due to the cancellation of statewide assessments for the 2019-2020 school year, third grade promotion decisions will be made in consultation with parents, teachers, and school leaders based on the students' classroom performance and progress monitoring data.

**Has the state canceled the summer FSA and EOC assessments for the 2019-20 school year?**  
Information about summer assessments will be forthcoming from the FDOE.

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

Yes, students will continue to earn grades assigned by the teacher based on progress in their classes. Student grades and credits will continue to count toward promotion and/or graduation.

Teachers will continue to grade work and update progress within PowerSchool  
Parents and students should check PowerSchool to view their student's progress and should contact the teacher regarding questions or concerns.

**Since the EOC, which is normally 30% of the course grade, will not be available, how will grades be calculated for Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Civics, and US History?**

For students currently enrolled in courses that include a statewide EOC, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has waived the requirement for the EOC to be calculated as 30% of the final grade. The student will receive an "H" or grade designated by county for the exam and the semester final grade will be based on the student's 3rd and 4th quarter grades, unless the student has a prior banked EOC score. If a student has a banked EOC score, the student will earn the higher of the two options.

**If a current senior or previously declared early graduate completed an EOC course prior to this semester and has not taken the EOC assessment, how will their grade be determined?**

Due to the COVID-19 school closures, the student no longer has the opportunity to take the EOC assessment. The student's grade will be determined based on the two quarter grades.

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

Final exams for middle and high school have been cancelled. The FLDOE also made the decision to cancel state EOC assessments.

**How will grades be determined without the semester two exams?**

The following two-grade configuration will apply.

<b>Two Grade Configuration</b>			
Quarter Grade	Quarter Grade	No Semester Exam	Final Grade
A	A		A
A	B		A
A	C		B
A	D		B
A	F		C
B	A		A
B	B		B
B	C		B
B	D		C
B	F		C
C	A		B
C	B		B
C	C		C
C	D		C

C	F		D
D	A		B
D	B		C
D	C		C
D	D		D
D	F		F
F	A		C
F	B		C
F	C		D
F	D		F
F	F		F

Hillsborough schools should input a grade of "H" for No Semester Exam.  
Please follow county guidelines regarding grade designation.

**Have the promotion guidelines for students been impacted due to the school closures?**

No, district and state procedures place the responsibility for decisions regarding student placement primarily with the principal and the School Placement Committee in consultation with parents.

Students may not be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion (F.S.1008.25). Grade level placement decisions are made with consideration of the following indicators:

- achievement level and ability level to reach the age appropriate standards;
- physical, social, and emotional maturity;
- attendance and number of retentions;
- other school records; and
- input from parent or guardian.

Students may be considered for retention in the current grade due to school closure conditions when requested by the parent. Retention will be approved in cases where the teachers and school administrators agree that it is in the student’s best interest.

Since the Grade 3 ELA FSA data will not be available due to the cancellation of statewide assessments for the 2019-2020 school year, third grade promotion decisions will be made in consultation with parents, teachers, and school leaders based on the students’ classroom performance and progress monitoring data.

**How can students obtain a copy of their high school transcript?**

Students should email the school counselor or administrator to request an electronic or paper copy of the transcript. The email should include the following information for verification.

- student name
- student number
- date of birth
- last four digits of social security number
- name and address of the institution where the transcript is to be sent

**Have the Cambridge Exams (AICE) exams been canceled for this school year?**

Cambridge Assessment International Education has made the decision not to hold the international examinations in the May/June 2020 series.

All certificates from Cambridge International, including the AICE Diploma, will be awarded as in past years.

### **How will Cambridge assess grades for the June 2020 series?**

It is vital to Cambridge International to ensure that all students studying in many different countries and contexts around the world receive a fair, valid and globally recognized qualification.

The process Cambridge will use to provide grades for students will be a collaborative one with the school.

The decision on grades to be awarded to candidates will be made by Cambridge, using their own evidence combined with evidence from the school.

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

The SAT and SAT Subject Test administrations for May 2, 2020 have been canceled by College Board. 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. Monitor updates directly at [College Board SAT Coronavirus 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 rescheduling to June or a future test date. Monitor updates directly at [ACT Coronavirus Updates](#).

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

No, AP exams have not been canceled. For the 2019–2020 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. We will continue to communicate with AP teachers and students as more information becomes available by the College Board. Monitor updates directly [College Board AP Updates](#).

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

Yes, at this time students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP Exam. Taking an AP exam provides the opportunity for our students to earn college credit free of charge to parents and all students are expected to take the AP exam aligned with the course they are enrolled.

### **What if a student receives accommodations for testing?**

Accommodations for students with documented disabilities through the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office will feed into the digital test-taking experience. Information for specific accommodations will be delineated in the At Home Testing Guide at [College Board AP Updates for Schools](#).

### **When will students receive information regarding exam dates and procedures?**

Students will take AP exams between May 11 and May 27 with a make-up exam window between June 1 and June 5. An exam schedule with specific exam dates and times as well as procedures for testing is posted on the College Board Website. The exam schedule and course specific exam information can be found at [College Board AP Updates for Schools](#).

## AP Exams 2020 by Local Start Times

<https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/>

Below are the primary exam dates. [Makeup exam dates](#) can be found below the [Course Specific Exam Information](#).

<b>Exam Start Time</b>	<b>Eastern Time: 12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Eastern Time: 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Eastern Time: 4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Mon, May 11</b>	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	United States Government and Politics
<b>Tues, May 12</b>	Latin	Calculus A Calculus BC	Human Geography
<b>Wed, May 13</b>	Physics 2: Algebra- Based	English Literature and Composition	European History
<b>Thurs, May 14</b>	Spanish Literature and Culture	Chemistry	Physics 1: Algebra-Based
<b>Fri, May 15</b>	Art History	United States History	Computer Science A
<b>Mon, May 18</b>	Chinese Language and Culture	Biology	Environmental Science
<b>Tues, May 19</b>	Music Theory	Psychology	Japanese Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture
<b>Wed, May 20</b>	German Language and Culture	English Language and Composition	Microeconomics
<b>Thurs, May 21</b>	French Language and Culture	World History: Modern	Macroeconomics
<b>Fri, May 22</b>	Comparative Government and Politics	Statistics	Spanish Language and Culture