



NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS

The state of North Carolina requires all public school students in membership (i.e., enrolled in a school) in grades 3 through 8 and high school courses requiring an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment, to participate in the Annual Testing Program. North Carolina does not allow any student to opt out of required state testing. The only exceptions granted are for a limited number of students who have extenuating circumstances primarily related to a significant medical emergency or condition and are unable to participate in a specific test administration.

At the beginning of each year, school districts are required to provide information to students and parents or guardians notifying them of the districtwide and State-mandated tests that students will be required to take during the school year. In addition, school districts must advise students and parents or guardians of the dates the tests will be administered and whether the North Carolina State Board of Education or the local board of education requires the test(s).

This letter is intended to inform you that your student will take districtwide and state-mandated tests this school year as reflected on the test calendar on page 2. The information is also posted online at <https://www.nhcs.net/divisions/instruction-and-academic-accountability/testing-and-accountability> .

All districtwide and State-mandated assessments are administered online with the exception of the Pre-ACT which is only available in paper format. Universal screeners and benchmark assessments are used to monitor how well students are progressing towards certain grade level skill expectations and content standards. Teachers use the results from these assessments for instructional planning.

End-of-Grade (EOG) tests measure how well students have mastered grade level subject specific standards. The scores on these assessments are only one indicator of students' achievement. Students' scores on these assessments should always be considered along with all other information the teacher provides about students.

End-of-Course (EOC) tests measure how well students have mastered course specific content. North Carolina Administrative Code requires schools to use EOC tests as “at least twenty percent (20%) of the student’s final grade.” As such, a student’s grade for these courses and overall grade-point-average calculation may be negatively impacted by not taking the required EOC state tests.

School districts are required to report scores resulting from the administration of state-mandated tests to students and parents or guardians no later than 30 days after the test is administered and along with available score interpretation information. This year the score reports for EOGs and EOCs will be available in your parent portal through PowerSchool.