



## NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS

The state of North Carolina requires all public school students enrolled 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.

Students will take districtwide and state-mandated tests this school year as reflected on the test calendar on page 2. Information about these tests can be found at <https://www.nhcs.net/divisions/instruction-and-academic-accountability/testing-and-accountability>. All districtwide and state-mandated assessments are administered online.

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 test scores 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 all state-mandated tests will be available in your parent portal through PowerSchool. Contact your student’s school for information on how to access the PowerSchool parent portal.

Please be advised that students are not allowed to use or have in their possession cell phones or any other electronic recording, listening, scanning, communication, or photographic devices at any time during a test session, including breaks. Any student found or observed with a cell phone or electronic device during a testing session must be dismissed from the session and a misadministration will be declared for that student.