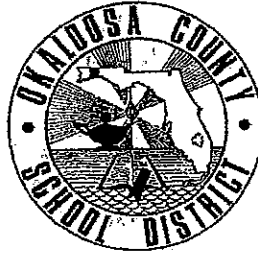


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.

ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD
C. JEFFREY McINNIS



BOARD MEMBERS
CINDY FRANKS
HOWARD HILL
CHUCK KELLEY
CATHY THIGPEN
RODNEY L. WALKER

Dear Parents,

With the passing of Senate Bill 4, a number of changes are being implemented which impact course requirements for graduation. These changes are based on the following research:

- There is clear and compelling evidence which shows that the level of coursework taken in high school is the best predictor of success in college and in the workplace.
- Data shows a strong correlation between taking higher-level mathematics courses in high school and achieving success in college and employment in high-growth jobs.
- Rigorous coursework matters for all students of all ability levels.

It is important that you are aware of these changes in order to plan and prepare for your child's continued success. In order to graduate from high school, this requires that students take certain courses and, in many cases, take the state end-of-course exam for that course. These new graduation requirements will be phased in. In the beginning stage, students will have to earn credit for the course and, if the end-of-course exam is required, the exam will count as 30% of the 2nd semester grade. In subsequent years, in order to earn credit for the course, students will have to "pass" the end-of-course exam with a Level 3. On the next page, you will find a chart that identifies which state end-of-course exams will be administered to entering Grade 9 students, by year of entry, and whether the exams will count as a percent of the 2nd semester grade or must be passed with a level 3 to earn course credit.

For example, if your child is currently a Grade 9 student (2010-11), s/he will be required to take an Algebra 1 state end-of-course exam with the exam counting 30% of his/her 2nd semester grade. In addition, your child will need to earn a credit in Geometry, prior to graduation. At the bottom of the chart, the FCAT exams are listed which will be administered to your child, indicating which exam and what level are required for graduation.

It is understandable that this information may be a bit confusing. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's guidance counselor or principal if clarification is needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guyla Hendricks".

Guyla Hendricks
Chief Officer, Quality Assurance and Curriculum Support

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**Senate Bill 4: 7-year Timeline for Implementation
Requirements for Ninth Grade Cohorts**

Entering Gr. 9 Students: 2010-2011, with graduation in 2013- 2014	Entering Gr. 9 Students: 2011-2012, with graduation in 2014-2015	Entering Gr. 9 Students: 2012-2013, with graduation in 2015-2016	Entering Gr. 9 Students: 2013-2014, with graduation in 2016-2017
Algebra I credit for graduation, Alg. I EOC counts as 30% of student grade	Algebra I credit for graduation, Alg. I EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher	Algebra I credit for graduation, Alg. I EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher	Algebra I credit for graduation, Alg. 1 EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher
Geometry credit for graduation	Geometry credit for graduation, Geometry EOC counts as 30% of student grade	Geometry credit for graduation, Geometry EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher	Geometry credit for graduation, Geometry EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher
	Biology credit for graduation, Bio. EOC counts as 30% of student grade	Biology credit for graduation, Biology EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher	Biology credit for graduation, Biology EOC must be passed with a Level 3 or higher
		Algebra II credit for graduation	Algebra II credit for graduation
			Two credits for graduation: 1. Chemistry or Physics 2. Equally rigorous course credit
	1 EOC to graduate (Alg. I) [EOC passing requirement may be waived for ESE students]	3 EOCs to graduate (Algebra, Biology, Geometry) [EOC passing requirement may be waived for ESE students]	3 EOCs to graduate (Algebra, Biology, Geometry) [EOC passing requirement may be waived for ESE students]
FCAT: Gr. 9/10 Reading, must be passed to graduate Gr. 10 Writing	FCAT: Gr. 9/10 Reading, must be passed to graduate Gr. 10 Writing	FCAT: Gr. 9/10 Reading, must be passed to graduate Gr. 10 Writing	FCAT: Gr. 10 Reading, must be passed to graduation Gr. 10 Writing

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