



Florida Department of Education

Secondary Student Progression

2020-2021 Frequently Asked Questions

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Secondary Progression – What’s New

2020-2021 Diploma Designation Information

1. How are assessment requirements for eligibility of the scholar diploma designation and the merit diploma designation determined for the 2020-2021 school term?

Students will need to meet the end-of-course (EOC) assessment requirements as established in [section \(s.\) 1003.4285, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).

Retakes and Comparative Scores

2. When is the next opportunity for students to take the Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) retake?

The next administration for the Grade 10 ELA FSA retake will be in fall 2020. Please refer to the [Florida Statewide Assessment Program 2020–2021 Schedule](#) for specific dates.

3. Will students who have already passed the Geometry EOC assessment but have not passed the Algebra 1 EOC assessment meet graduation requirements via this assessment?

Yes. Students who were previously enrolled in Algebra 1 but have failed to successfully pass the FSA Algebra 1 EOC assessment may use a passing FSA Geometry EOC assessment score to meet the Algebra 1 EOC assessment graduation requirement.

4. Will students be able to retake the Geometry EOC assessment to meet the graduation requirement for the Algebra 1 EOC assessment?

Yes. Eligible students may use a passing score on the Geometry EOC assessment as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC assessment. Students may retake the Geometry EOC assessment as an opportunity to meet the graduation requirement if they previously failed the assessment.

On July 15, 2020, State Board [Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#), Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements, allowing for the use of a passing score on the Geometry EOC assessment to satisfy the Algebra 1 EOC assessment graduation requirement for students in the applicable cohorts, was approved.

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida’s Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Secondary Progression Continued

Middle Grades Student Progression – s. 1003.4156, F.S.

5. What are the requirements for a student to be promoted to high school?

A student must successfully complete three middle grades or higher courses, as specified in [s. 1003.4156, F.S.](#), in each of the following areas:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social studies
 - ♦ One of these courses must be, at a minimum, a one-semester civics education course that includes the roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of the Confederation, the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
 - ♦ Each student's performance on the statewide, standardized assessment in civics education required under s. 1008.22, F.S., constitutes 30 percent of the final course grade.
 - A middle grades student who transfers into the state's public school system from out of country, out of state, a private school or a home education program after the beginning of the second term of grade 8, is not required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion from the middle grades if the student's transcript documents passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long courses in social studies that include coverage of civics education.

A student must also successfully complete one of the state-approved courses in career and education planning (<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7531/urlt/approved-courses.pdf>) in grade 6, 7 or 8.

6. What are the requirements that must be completed for the middle grades career and education planning course?

The middle grades career and education planning course must:

- Be internet based and customizable to each student and include research-based assessments to assist students in determining educational and career options and goals;
- Result in a completed personalized academic and career plan for the student that may be revised as the student progresses through middle school and high school;
- Emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship and employability skills; and
- Include information from the Department of Economic Opportunity's [Economic Security Report](#), under s. 445.07, F.S.

The required personalized academic and career plan for the student must inform the student of the following:

- High school graduation requirements, including a detailed explanation of the diploma designation options under s. 1003.4285, F.S.;
- Requirements for each scholarship in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program;

- Florida College System and State University System (SUS) institution admission requirements;
- Available opportunities to earn college credit in high school including:
 - ♦ Advanced Placement (AP) courses,
 - ♦ International Baccalaureate (IB) Program,
 - ♦ Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program, and
 - ♦ Dual enrollment (including career dual enrollment); and
- Available career education courses (including Preapprenticeship and Apprenticeship programs and courses that lead to industry certification).

7. What are the physical education requirements for middle grades students?

One semester of physical education is required each year for middle grades students as required by [s. 1003.455, F.S.](#) The following waiver options are available:

- The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
- The student's parent indicates one of the following in writing to the school:
 - ♦ A request that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the school district; or
 - ♦ The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day that are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

8. How do middle grades students earn high school Algebra 1 credit?

Middle grades students enrolled in Algebra 1 must take the Algebra 1 EOC assessment and pass the course to earn high school Algebra 1 credit; however, a middle grades student is not required to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to earn high school credit or be promoted to high school. A middle grades student's performance on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

9. If a middle grades student takes Algebra 1 for high school credit, is the student required to pass the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to earn a standard diploma?

Yes. Although middle grades students are not required to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to earn the course credit or to be promoted to high school, per [s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#), a student must pass the statewide, standardized Algebra 1 EOC assessment, or earn a comparative score, in order to earn a standard high school diploma.

10. What are the requirements of middle grades students enrolled in high school Geometry, U.S. History or Biology 1 to earn high school credit?

Middle grades students must take the corresponding EOC assessment, which constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade, and earn a passing grade in the course.

11. If a middle grades student takes high school Geometry, U.S. History or Biology 1, is the student required to pass the EOC assessment to qualify for a standard high school diploma scholar designation?

Yes.

12. Do middle grades students need to pass the Civics EOC assessment to be promoted to grade 9?
No. A student's result on the Civics EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade; however, middle grades students must obtain a passing grade for a civics course to be promoted to grade 9.
13. What are the civics requirements for a middle grades student who transfers into the state's public school system?
A middle grades student who transfers into the state's public school system from out of country, out of state, a private school or a home education program after the beginning of the second term of grade 8, is not required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion if the student's transcript documents passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long courses in social studies that include coverage of civics education. If this is not the case, the student must be immediately enrolled in civics and participate in the Civics EOC assessment. The results of the EOC assessment must constitute 30 percent of the course grade.
14. Are middle grades students who are enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry or Biology 1 required to be double tested with both the EOC assessment and the corresponding subject and grade-level statewide, standardized assessment?
No. Middle grades students must take the statewide, standardized EOC assessment for those courses and may not take the corresponding subject and grade-level statewide, standardized assessment specified in [s. 1008.22\(3\)\(b\)2., F.S.](#)
15. Can a middle grades student earn high school course credit through the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) specified in [s. 1003.4295\(3\), F.S.](#)?
Yes. A middle grades student may earn high school credit in Algebra 1, Geometry, U.S. History or Biology 1 if the student passes the statewide, standardized EOC assessment without the requirement of enrolling in or completing the course.
16. Is there a requirement for a middle grades or high school student who scores a Level 1 or 2 on the statewide, standardized ELA or mathematics assessment to enroll the following year in and complete a remedial course or a content-area course in which remediation strategies are incorporated into content course delivery?
No. Districts and schools continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of each student regarding course enrollment and instructional support. School districts may choose to offer Intensive Reading, Intensive Language Arts, Intensive Writing and Intensive Mathematics as listed in the [Florida Course Code Directory \(CCD\)](#).

Computer Science and Technology Instruction – s. 1007.2616(2)(a), F.S.

17. Are middle schools required to offer opportunities for students to take computer science courses?
Yes. Middle schools in each district, including combination schools in which any of grades 6-12 are taught, must provide an opportunity for students to enroll in a computer science course. If a school district does not offer an identified computer science course, the district must provide students access to the course through the Florida Virtual School or through other means. A complete listing of the 2020-2021 courses that meet this requirement is located at [Computer Science Course List 2020-2021](#).

High School Student Progression

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) Option – s. 1002.3105, F.S.

18. What is the difference between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit standard diploma option?

- Three elective credits instead of eight are required;
- Physical education is not required; and
- An online course is not required.

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met based on the grade 9 cohort year per [s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(a\)-\(e\), F.S.](#)

19. Are high school students with disabilities who have an individual educational plan (IEP) eligible for consideration of a statewide, standardized assessment results waiver under the 18-credit ACCEL diploma option?

Yes.

20. What withdrawal code is used when a student graduates under an 18-credit ACCEL option?

The withdrawal codes are located in Appendix A: Attendance Recordkeeping Required Codes for Grades PK-12 Students in the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page and are based on ACCEL options ([s. 1002.3105, F.S.](#)).

21. Can a fifth-year high school student elect to graduate under the 18-credit ACCEL option?

Yes.

Early High School Graduation – s. 1003.4281, F.S.

22. What is early high school graduation?

A student may choose the option of an early graduation (less than eight semesters) if the student earns 24 credits and meets the graduation requirements set forth in [s. 1003.4282, F.S.](#) Such students are not required to complete any additional district-mandated graduation requirements.

High School Standard Diploma Requirements – s. 1003.4282, F.S.

23. When can a school district award a standard high school diploma?

A school district may award a standard diploma to a student who earns a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, satisfies the statewide, standardized assessment requirements and meets the requirements of:

- [Section 1003.4282, F.S.](#), 24-credit option (requires successful completion of 24 credits, an IB curriculum or an AICE curriculum);
- [Section 1002.3105\(5\), F.S.](#), 18-credit ACCEL option; or
- [Section 1003.4282\(11\), F.S.](#), Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway option.

24. What are the 24-credit standard diploma requirements?

2020-2021 Florida 24-Credit Graduation Requirements

Available to all students, including students with disabilities

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 • ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry • Industry certifications* that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry) • An identified computer science credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)**
3 Credits Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Biology 1, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses • Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component • Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1) • An identified computer science course may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1)***
3 Credits Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in World History • 1 credit in U.S. History • 0.5 credit in U.S. Government • 0.5 credit in Economics
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts**
1 Credit Physical Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include the integration of health.
8 Elective Credits
1 Online Course Within the 24 Credits****
Students must earn a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and pass statewide, standardized assessments unless a waiver of assessment results is granted by the IEP team for students with disabilities.

* Industry certifications for which there is a statewide college credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for mathematics and science credit and may be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.stml>.

** Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the current year’s [CCD](#).

***A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a mathematics and a science credit.

****Online course requirement may be waived by the IEP team for students with disabilities.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway – s. 1003.4282(11), F.S.

25. What are the requirements to earn a standard diploma through the CTE pathway option?

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student must:

- Successfully complete a minimum of 18 credits;
- Have a minimum, cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- Meet the requirements in [s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(a\)-\(d\), F.S.](#);
- Complete two credits in CTE (the courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification); and
- Complete two credits in work-based learning programs (a student may substitute up to two credits of electives, including one-half credit in financial literacy, for work-based learning program courses to fulfill this requirement).

Each district school board must incorporate the CTE pathway option into the district's student progression plan as required under [s. 1008.25, F.S.](#)

26. Where is a listing of the available CTE programs and related courses?

A listing is available on the [CTE Pathway Option](#) web page.

In addition, a listing of career clusters with access to curriculum frameworks (CTE programs and related courses) is available on the [2020-2021 CTE Curriculum Frameworks](#) web page.

27. Where is a listing of industry certifications that satisfy the CTE pathway industry certification requirement?

The [CTE Pathway Option](#) web page, provides a multiyear listing of eligible industry certifications.

28. How are the work-based learning program courses that will satisfy the two credits in the work-based learning requirement identified?

Courses are identified in the 2020-2021 CCD ([Section 5 - Career and Technical Education Programs and Courses](#)) and are available on the [CTE Pathway Option](#) web page.

29. What withdrawal codes are used when a student graduates under the CTE pathway option?

The withdrawal codes are located in Appendix A: Attendance Recordkeeping Required Codes for Grades PK-12 Students in the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page and are based on the CTE Pathway option ([s. 1003.4282\(11\), F.S.](#)).

30. What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 FSA ELA or earn a concordant score; and
- Algebra 1 EOC or earn a comparative score.

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students enrolled in the following courses must participate in the EOC assessments:

- Algebra 1
- U.S. History
- Geometry
- Biology 1

The EOC assessment results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade.

31. What are the comparative and concordant scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements?

Comparative and concordant scores are defined by [Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.](#) Additional information related to statewide assessment requirements is available in [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#).

Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma – s. 1003.4282(3), F.S.

32. Can the Algebra 1 credit requirement be successfully completed through two full-year courses?

Yes. This option was available for students prior to July 1, 2019; however, [s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(b\)2., F.S.](#), was revised to add that a student may earn two mathematics credits by successfully completing Algebra 1 through two year-long courses effective July 1, 2019.

The mathematics courses that satisfy the Algebra 1 credit requirement when a student successfully completes two year-long courses are available in the [2020-2021 CCD](#) and [CPALMS](#). They include the following sequences of courses:

- Algebra 1-A (1200370) and Algebra 1-B (1200380); or
- Access Algebra 1-A (7912080) and Access Algebra 1-B (7912090).

A certified school counselor or the principal's designee must advise the student that admission to a state university may require the student to earn three additional mathematics credits that are at least as rigorous as Algebra 1.

33. What is the change related to the social studies credit requirements for the awarding of a standard diploma?

Effective July 1, 2019, the requirement for a student to earn one-half credit in economics was changed to remove the financial literacy content. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student must successfully complete one-half credit in economics in order to satisfy, in part, the social studies credit requirements for receipt of a standard diploma ([s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(d\), F.S.](#)).

Courses that meet the economics requirement are available in the [2020-2021 CCD](#).

There are also dual enrollment courses in economics (ECOX013 and ECOX023) that meet the high school economics requirement as listed on the Dual Enrollment Course – High School Subject Area Equivalency List on the [Articulation Office](#) web page.

34. What is the revision to the elective requirements for the awarding of a standard diploma?

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, all school districts must offer a financial literacy course consisting of at least one-half credit as an elective ([s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(g\), F.S.](#)). Refer to the [2020-2021 CCD](#) for the available courses.

35. What are the additional course substitution and waiver options for a student to satisfy the physical education and fine arts credit requirements?
- Participation in an interscholastic sport for two full seasons will satisfy the one-credit physical education requirement.
 - Completion of one semester with a grade of C or better in a marching band class, a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or a dance class will satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or a Section 504 plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
 - Completion of two years in a Reserve Officers' Training Corps class (including a significant component of drills) will satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or Section 504 plan.

Refer to the Narrative Section in the current year's [CCD](#) for additional information.

Computer Science and Technology Instruction – s. 1007.2616, F.S.

36. Are high schools required to offer opportunities for students to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy high school graduation requirements?

Yes. Per [s. 1007.2616, F.S.](#), high schools in each district, including combination schools in which any of grades 6-12 are taught, must provide an opportunity for students to enroll in computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy graduation requirements per [s. 1003.4282\(3\), F.S.](#) Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation must be included in the CCD.

A complete listing of the 2020-2021 courses that meet this requirement is located at [Computer Science Course List](#).

If a school district does not offer an identified computer science course, the district must provide students access to the course through the Florida Virtual School or through other means.

37. Is there a change to the provision for high school computer science courses and the earning of related industry certifications to constitute the equivalent of up to one credit of the mathematics or science requirement (with the exception of Algebra 1 or a higher-level mathematics course and Biology 1 or a higher-level science course)?

Yes. The provision was removed from [s. 1007.2616\(6\)\(a\), F.S.](#), and added to [s. 1003.4282\(3\) F.S.](#), effective July 1, 2019.

38. Is there a change to the provision for high school computer technology courses in three-dimensional rapid prototype printing and related industry certifications to satisfy up to two mathematics credits for high school graduation (with the exception of Algebra 1)?

The provision was removed from [s. 1007.2616\(6\)\(a\), F.S.](#), and added to [s. 1003.4282\(3\), F.S.](#), effective July 1, 2019.

39. Can a district school board require that the one-credit requirement in physical education be taken during the grade 9 school year?

No.

40. To receive a course waiver for physical education (one credit), is a student required to pass a personal fitness competency test with a grade of C or better when the student completes participation in an interscholastic sport for two full seasons?

No. This requirement was eliminated effective July 1, 2017.

Students with Disabilities – s. 1003.4282(10), F.S.

41. What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Most students with disabilities take the same courses and assessments as other students to earn a standard diploma. Refer to question [48](#) and the [2020-2021 Florida 24-Credit Graduation Requirements](#) table.

42. Where is additional technical assistance related to high school graduation options for students with disabilities located?

The technical assistance paper, [High School Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities](#), describes the high school graduation options for students with disabilities following the adoption of Rule 6A-1.09963, F.A.C., High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities (Division of Public Schools [DPS] Memo: 2015-34, dated April 15, 2016).

43. What is the statutory authority for a waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results?

[Section 1008.22\(3\)\(c\)1., F.S.](#), requires that school districts provide instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate satisfactory performance in the core content knowledge and skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation. Assessment results may be waived under specific circumstances for students with disabilities for the purpose of receiving a course grade or a standard high school diploma. Specific requirements regarding the waiver process are found in [s. 1008.22\(3\)\(c\)2., F.S.](#)

44. Where is additional technical assistance related to the waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results located?

The technical assistance paper, [Waiver of Statewide, Standardized Assessment Results for Students with Disabilities](#), contains frequently asked questions and a sample form for IEP teams making decisions related to waiving statewide, standardized assessment results for students with disabilities for the purpose of earning a course grade or a standard high school diploma (DPS Memo: 2015-16, dated January 15, 2016).

45. Where are information and resources related to secondary transition for students with disabilities located?

Information and resources to support students with disabilities who transition from high school to postsecondary education, employment and independent living are located on the [Secondary Transition](#) web page.

46. Are there any exemption options related to the statewide, standardized assessment administration for students?

Yes. There are two student exemption options related to statewide, standardized assessments as follows:

- A student with a disability for whom the IEP team determines is prevented by a circumstance or condition from physically demonstrating the mastery of skills that have been acquired and are measured by the statewide, standardized assessment; a statewide, standardized EOC assessment; or an alternate assessment pursuant to [s. 1008.22\(3\)\(c\), F.S.](#), shall be granted an extraordinary exemption from the administration of the assessment ([s. 1008.212\(2\), F.S.](#)). There is a process that a district must follow to request a review by the Commissioner of Education specified in [s. 1008.212, F.S.](#), and [Rule 6A-1.0943, F.A.C.](#)
- A student with a medical complexity may be exempt from participating in statewide, standardized assessments, including the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment. There is a process that a district must follow to request this exemption by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of [s. 1008.22\(11\), F.S.](#), and [Rule 6A-1.0943, F.A.C.](#)

Certificate of Completion – s. 1003.4282(6), F.S.

47. What are the conditions for a school district to award a certificate of completion to a student?

A school district may award a certificate of completion to a student when the student earns the required 24 credits ([s. 1003.4282, F.S.](#)) or the required 18 credits under the ACCEL option ([s. 1002.3105, F.S.](#)), but fails to:

- Pass the assessments required under [s. 1008.22\(3\), F.S.](#); or
- Achieve a 2.0 or higher GPA.

A student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-time or part-time student for up to one additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy the student's identified deficiencies.

Grade Forgiveness Policy – s. 1003.4282(5), F.S.

48. What are the statutory requirements for the establishment of district grade forgiveness policies?

[Section 1003.4282\(5\), F.S.](#), specifies that forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of D or F, with a grade of C or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.

Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of D or F, with a grade of C or higher, earned subsequently in another course.

The only exception to these forgiveness policies shall be made for a middle grades student who takes any high school course for high school credit and earns a grade of C, D or F. In such case, the district forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with a grade of C or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course.

49. How is course grade forgiveness recorded on the high school transcript?

For required courses, if a student retakes the same or comparable course and meets the grade forgiveness requirements, an "X" course flag and an "I" is added to the same or comparable course taken subsequently. The course flags (Data Element Number 109125) are located in the

Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page and include the following:

- “X” – Exclude. Exclude from the state and local GPA (use only in combination with an “I” for tracking forgiveness); and
- “I” – Include. Include in GPA (use only in combination with an “X”).

50. Are all grades on the high school transcript calculated into the cumulative GPA?

All course grades that have a credit value indicated in the credit-earned column are calculated into the cumulative GPA unless the course is excluded and an “X” course flag is reported.

51. Can a course be deleted from a student’s transcript?

No. [Rule 6A-1.0955\(3\), F.A.C.](#), requires each school district to keep a record of courses taken and a record of achievement, such as grades, unit or certification of competence. Student records should not be altered at any time unless it has been determined that the information is inaccurate or in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student.

All courses and grades must be included on the student’s transcript. The authority for a school district to adopt forgiveness policies is for the express purpose of assisting students in meeting the requirements necessary to graduate from high school, including a minimum GPA and successful completion of academic credit or curriculum requirements. All forgiven courses and grades must be included on a student’s transcript as an accurate reflection of the student’s record of achievement.

52. What is the definition of high school credit?

[Section 1003.436\(1\), F.S.](#), specifies:

- One full credit means a minimum of 135 hours (120 hours in a district school that has been authorized to implement block scheduling) of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains student performance standards, except as provided through the CAP under [s. 1003.4295\(3\), F.S.](#); and
- The hourly requirements for one-half credit are half the hourly requirements specified above.

End-of-Course Assessments and Grade Forgiveness

53. For each cohort of students with the requirement for an EOC assessment to count as 30 percent of students’ final course grades, what are the guidelines to determine the final grade calculation?

The EOC assessment results must constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. The algorithm to calculate 30 percent of the final course grade based on an EOC assessment is a locally determined decision.

FDOE’s preferred algorithm for a course average, although not required, is as follows:

$$[(\text{Semester 1 converted to a 0-4 scale}) \times 0.35] + [(\text{Semester 2 converted to 0-4 scale}) \times 0.35] + [(\text{EOC assessment converted to 0-4 scale}) \times 0.30] = \text{course average}$$

[If weighting: (course average) + weight]

If a school district reports using a semester reporting system only (terms one and two), then the semester one and two averages must include 30 percent of the EOC assessment results. For semester one report cards, an asterisk could be placed with a special note (e.g., semester one average pending end-of-year EOC assessment results).

Another option for districts using a semester reporting system would be to report a final year (term three) average only for courses requiring an EOC assessment and when there is the requirement for the results to count as 30 percent of the final course grade. If a term three is reported for the course, then the combination of term one and term two should not be sent. This could incorrectly affect how a student's GPA is calculated.

54. Does the grade forgiveness policy still apply to the cohorts of students with the requirement for an EOC assessment to count as 30 percent of a student's final course grade?

Yes, grade forgiveness still applies. If a student's final average with the EOC assessment included as 30 percent results in a course grade of D or F, the options for the student include one of the following:

- Retaking a semester of the course;
- Retaking the entire course;
- Retaking the EOC assessment for that course; or
- Retaking both the course and the EOC assessment to improve the student's final course grade.

If retaking the entire course, including the EOC assessment as 30 percent, or retaking the EOC assessment results in a final course average of C or above, then this grade replaces the D or F. If it does not result in a C or above, then the original course average stands and is not replaced. Only one credit is allowed per course, so only one grade per course should be included as part of the student's GPA. [Section 1003.4282\(5\), F.S.](#), states, "In all cases of grade forgiveness, only the new grade shall be used in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Any course not replaced according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required for graduation."

55. May a student who is in a cohort subject to the EOC assessment results constituting 30 percent of the final course grade requirement retake an EOC assessment to improve their course grade?

Yes; however, this option is only available to students who are eligible to do so under the grade forgiveness policies of their school district.

56. Can a district school board establish a policy to require students to have their performance on an assessment constitute 30 percent of their final course grade if it is not required by statute?

Yes.

Credit Recovery Courses and Grade Forgiveness

57. What is the definition of a Credit Recovery course?

Credit Recovery courses are elective credit-bearing courses with specific content requirements defined by currently adopted Florida Standards. Students enrolled in a Credit Recovery course must have previously attempted the corresponding course, the EOC assessment or both, since the course requirements for the Credit Recovery course are exactly the same as the previously attempted corresponding course. For example, Geometry (1206310) and Geometry for Credit Recovery (1206315) have identical content requirements.

Pursuant to the [CCD](#), the Credit Recovery courses are not bound by [s. 1003.436\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#), which requires a minimum of 135 hours of bona fide instruction (120 hours in a school or district implementing block scheduling) in a designed course of study that contains student performance standards, since the students have previously attempted successful completion of the corresponding course. Credit Recovery courses should only be used for credit recovery, grade

forgiveness or remediation for students needing to prepare for an EOC assessment retake.

58. Which courses are designated as Credit Recovery courses?

Specific courses in English, mathematics, science and social studies are designated as credit recovery and listed in the current year's [CCD](#). Courses are designated as Level 2 and R (Recovery). They are reported as elective courses.

59. How many credits may a student earn in a Credit Recovery course?

Credit Recovery courses have a 0.5 credit value and may be taken for up to a maximum credit value of 1.0, pursuant to the CCD.

60. Do Credit Recovery courses count toward academic core subject areas for SUS First-Time-In-College (FTIC) admissions and the Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements?

No. Credit Recovery courses designated as electives will not satisfy SUS FTIC admissions and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements (Board of Governors Regulation 6.002 and [Rule 6A-20.028, F.A.C.](#)).

61. Are Credit Recovery courses approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)?

The [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) determines whether to approve nontraditional academic core subjects (e.g., credit recovery, online courses and independent study). Each high school must complete the NCAA eligibility certification process for academic core subject course approval.

62. How is credit reported on a student's transcript when a student takes a Credit Recovery course for grade forgiveness purposes?

A student who takes a Credit Recovery course may earn elective credit for the terms up to a maximum value of 1.0. In addition, the grade earned in the Credit Recovery course and the course credit value is posted on the transcript. Then, the corresponding academic core course is recorded on the transcript using the grade earned in the Credit Recovery course. If the course has a required EOC assessment, then the EOC assessment results must constitute 30 percent of the academic core final course grade. As a result, if the student earns a C or higher in the academic core course, then the district grade forgiveness policy may apply.

Uniform Transfer of High School Credits – s. 1003.4282(7), F.S.

63. What are the requirements for out-of-country, out-of-state, private school or home education program students who transfer into a Florida public school with a transcript that shows an Algebra 1 credit?

If the student's transcript indicates Algebra 1 course credit, the student must take and pass the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to earn a standard diploma unless the student achieved the following:

- Earned a comparative score as defined in [Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.](#);
- Passed a statewide assessment in Algebra 1 administered by the transferring entity; or
- Passed the statewide mathematics assessment the transferring entity uses to satisfy the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (EA), "as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), 20 U.S.C. [United States Code] ss. 6301 et seq."

The Algebra 1 EOC assessment result will not constitute 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

64. What does a school need to do to facilitate on-time graduation for transferring military children?
- A school district shall waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from a school of the sending state, the school of the receiving state shall provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.
 - States shall accept exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from a school in the sending state or national norm-referenced achievement tests or alternative testing, in lieu of testing requirements for graduation in a school of the receiving state.
 - If a transitioning student who transfers in his/her senior year is ineligible to graduate from a school in the receiving state after all alternatives have been considered, both the sending and receiving state schools shall ensure the receipt of a diploma from the sending state school if the student meets the graduation requirements of the sending state school.

For additional information related to military students and families, please review [Questions and Answers for Schools Concerning The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children](#).

65. What are the requirements for out-of-country, out-of-state, private school or home education program students who transfer into a Florida public school with a transcript that shows a credit in high school reading or ELA 2 or 3?

If the student's transcript indicates credit in high school reading or ELA 2 or 3, the student must take and pass the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment or earn a concordant score to earn a standard diploma.

66. If a transfer student's transcript shows a final course grade and credit in Geometry, Biology 1 or U.S. History, does the student have to take the EOC assessments for the corresponding course for transfer of credit?

No. The transferring final grade and credit must be honored without the student taking the requisite EOC assessment and without the results constituting 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

Although to qualify for a scholar diploma designation, the student must satisfy the scholar diploma designation requirements. For more information refer to questions [97 through 111](#).

67. What is the rule adopted by the State Board of Education related to the transfer of high school credit?

[Rule 6A-1.09941, F.A.C.](#), specifies the requirements for the uniform transfer of high school credit in addition to [s. 1003.4282\(7\), F.S.](#)

68. If an out-of-state transfer student's transcript evidences a passing score on the transferring state's statewide ELA assessment required for graduation, can that assessment satisfy the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment requirement?

No. Only ACT and SAT concordant scores may be used to satisfy the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment requirement as per [Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.](#)

Online Course Graduation Requirement – s. 1003.4282(4), F.S.

69. What is the online course requirement for graduation?

At least one course required for graduation must be completed through online learning. Only students seeking the 24-credit high school diploma must meet this graduation requirement ([s. 1003.4282\(4\), F.S.](#)).

70. How can students seeking the 24-credit standard diploma meet the online course requirement for graduation?

Students may meet this requirement by completing an online high school course offered by the following:

- Florida Virtual School;
- A district high school (to include traditional district schools, district virtual franchises and virtual charter schools);
- A postsecondary school as an online dual enrollment course;
- District virtual instruction programs; and
- A district middle school (high school-level course).

Students may also satisfy the online course graduation requirement through the following:

- Completion of a blended learning course, or
- Completion of a course in which a student earns a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology that is identified on the [CAPE \[Career and Professional Education\] Industry Certification Funding List \(s. 1008.44, F.S.\)](#) or passage of the information technology certification examination without enrollment in or completion of the corresponding courses. Currently, there are numerous industry certifications that will satisfy this requirement identified in the primary career cluster area on information technology on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.

There are other eligible industry certifications students may earn in CTE information technology courses that appear on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List that do not have a primary career cluster information technology assignment.

In order to expand school district options of viable industry certifications, we recommend visiting the [CTE Information Technology](#) website to identify courses and programs categorized as Information Technology. Should a student earn any other industry certification on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List resulting from enrollment in a CTE Information Technology course, then that eligible industry certification would satisfy the online course graduation requirement.

71. Are students required to pass the online course to meet the online course graduation requirement?

Yes. [Section 1003.4282, F.S.](#), specifies that at least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning.

72. Does the online course need to be taught by a qualified, Florida-certified instructor?

Yes. The teacher providing the instruction (online or face-to-face) must meet the certification requirements for instructional staff under Chapter 1012, F.S., and be certified to teach the course. Information on certification requirements for specific courses can be found in the current year's [CCD](#).

73. If a student successfully completes half of a full-credit online class, does this mean that the student has met the graduation requirement?
- No. The law specifies that one course within the 24 credits must be completed through online learning; therefore, the student must complete a course. If it is a year-long course, then the student must earn the full credit to meet the graduation requirement.
74. Can Credit Recovery online courses be used to meet the online course graduation course?
- Yes. As long as the student earns high school credit through an online course as defined in question 72.
75. Can a driver education course taken online satisfy an online course graduation requirement?
- Yes.
76. If a course was taught using an e-book in a traditional classroom, would that meet the online course graduation requirement?
- No.
77. If the course was taught in a traditional classroom using an interactive white board and digital readers, would that meet the online course graduation requirement?
- No.
78. Are there exceptions for meeting this requirement?
- Yes. [Section 1003.4282\(4\), F.S.](#), provides for two exceptions. The first is for students with disabilities whose IEP indicates that an online or blended learning course is inappropriate. The second exception is for students who transfer into a Florida public high school who have one year or less left in high school.
79. Before determining that a student's IEP should include an exception to the requirement for participation in an online course in accordance with [s. 1003.4282\(4\), F.S.](#), what information should the IEP team consider?
- Because many students with disabilities will be accessing online instruction in a postsecondary setting, it is of critical importance that efforts be made to support the participation of students with disabilities pursuing a standard diploma in the online course requirement. IEP teams should follow the same guidelines for developing a quality IEP for online learning environments as they do for face-to-face learning environments. Regarding an online course, the IEP team should consider the following questions:
- What supports, services, accessible instructional materials (AIMs), assistive technologies and accommodations will the student need to be able to participate and progress in an online learning environment?
 - Are there AIMs, assistive technologies and accommodations that the student will need time to become proficient in using to be able to participate and progress in an online course?
80. Can a school district require a student to take the online or blended learning course outside the school day or in addition to a student's courses for a given semester?
- No.

81. What is the definition of the Online Course data element (197235) and when must the online course used to satisfy the graduation requirement be reported to the FDOE database?

The Online Course data element (197235) is defined as an indicator of whether a student took this course under conditions of an online course as per [ss. 1002.321\(3\)](#) and [1003.4282\(4\), F.S.](#) This data element is located on the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page. The codes are as follows:

- N – This course was not taken under conditions that met the requirements to be an online course per ss. 1002.321(3) and 1003.4282(4), F.S.
- Y – This course was taken under conditions that met the requirements to be an online course per ss. 1002.321(3) and 1003.4282(4), F.S.
- I – This requirement was met by the student’s completion of a course in which the student earned a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology that is identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to s. 1008.44, F.S., as applicable per s. 1003.4282(4), F.S.
- J – This requirement was met by the student’s passage of the information technology certification examination pursuant to s. 1008.44, F.S., without enrollment in or completion of the corresponding course or courses, as applicable per s. 1003.4282(4), F.S.

This data element entitled Online Course (197235) is to be reported during Survey 5 on the Student Course Transcript Information Record.

82. What code is recorded on the student transcript when a student satisfies the online course graduation requirement with completion of a course?

The applicable codes are in the Online Course field in the I/S04 Course Record section of the Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records (FASTER) User Manual located at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/faster/index.htm>.

83. What code is recorded on the student transcript when a student satisfies the online course graduation requirement without completion of a course?

The applicable codes are in the Online Course Requirement Met, Other field in the I/S01 Demographic section of the [FASTER User Manual](#).

84. What is the definition of the Online Course Exempt data element (197242)?

The Online Course Exempt data element (197242) is defined as an indicator of whether the student is exempt from the requirement of taking an online course per [ss. 1002.321\(3\)](#) and [1003.4282\(4\), F.S.](#)

This data element is in the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page. The codes are as follows:

- D – This requirement does not apply to this student because the student has an IEP under [s. 1003.57, F.S.](#), which indicates that an online course would be inappropriate.
- T – This requirement does not apply to this student because of one of the following reasons:
 - ◆ The student is enrolled in a Florida high school and has less than one academic year remaining in high school.
 - ◆ The student is not in a cohort of students who must meet this requirement for graduation.
 - ◆ This requirement does not apply to this student because the student is pursuing a standard diploma by completing one of the following:

- An International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum under s. 1003.4282, F.S.
 - An Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum under s. 1003.4282, F.S.
 - An 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option under s. 1002.3105(5), F.S.
 - A Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway curriculum under s. 1003.4282, F.S.
- Z – This student has no exemption.

85. How will the exceptions for meeting the online graduation requirement be reported to the FDOE database?

The Online Course Exempt data element (197242) is to be reported during Survey 5 on the Student Course Transcript Information Record.

86. What code is recorded on the student transcript when a student is exempt from the online course graduation requirement?

The applicable codes are in the Online Course Exempt field in the I/S01 Demographic section of the [FASTER User Manual](#).

Industry Certification Mathematics and Science Substitutions – s. 1003.4282(3)(b) and (c), F.S.

87. How many mathematics and science credits may be substituted with industry certifications?

- A student who earns an industry certification for which there is a statewide college-credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for one mathematics credit. Substitutions may occur for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra 1 and Geometry.
- A student who earns an industry certification for which there is a statewide college-credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education may substitute the certification for up to one science credit, except for Biology 1.

It is important to note that one qualifying industry certification attainment equates to one substitution credit. A student would need to earn three distinct industry certifications to earn the maximum of three substitution credits (two in mathematics and one in science).

The school district determines which industry certifications can yield course substitutions for mathematics and science.

Credit earned by industry certification does not count for Florida SUS admission.

88. What are the new course substitution options related to mathematics and science credits?

The new course substitution options related to mathematics and science include the following:

- An identified computer science credit may substitute for up to one credit of the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra 1 and Geometry ([s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(b\)3., F.S.](#)).
- An identified computer science credit may substitute for up to one credit of the science requirement, with the exception of Biology 1 ([s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(c\)3., F.S.](#)).
- An identified industry certification in 3D rapid prototype printing may satisfy up to two credits of the mathematics requirements, with the exception of Algebra 1 ([s. 1003.4282\(3\)\(b\)3., F.S.](#)).

An identified computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a mathematics credit and a science credit.

89. Which computer science courses are identified as fulfilling the criteria for course substitution related to mathematics credits?

Computer Science Courses that Fulfill Mathematics Course Credit Substitution		
0200305	Computer Science Discoveries	MA – Subject Code
0200315	Computer Science Principles	MA – Subject Code
0200320	AP Computer Science A	MA – Subject Code
0200325	AP Computer Science A Innovations	MA – Subject Code
0200335	AP Computer Science Principles	MA – Subject Code

90. Which computer science courses are identified as fulfilling the criteria for course substitution related to science credits?

Computer Science Courses that Fulfill Science Course Credit Substitution		
0200800	IB Computer Science 1	EQ – Subject Code
0200810	IB Computer Science 2	EQ – Subject Code
0200820	IB Computer Science 3	EQ – Subject Code

91. Where can one find the industry certifications for which there is a statewide college-credit articulation agreement approved by the State Board of Education that may substitute for mathematics and science credit?

Refer to the Statewide Articulation Agreements web page at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.stml> (select Active Articulation Agreements Summary).

92. What are the CCD industry certification substitution numbers for student transcript reporting purposes?

The Industry Certification Mathematics Substitution numbers are 1200998 and 1200999 and the Industry Certification Science Substitution number is 2000999.

Apprenticeship or Preapprenticeship Program Credits – s. 1003.4282(8)(a)3., F.S.

93. Can students earn credit upon the completion of an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program that would satisfy the practical arts or elective requirement for high school graduation?

Yes. Per [s. 1003.4282\(8\)\(a\)3., F.S.](#), a student who earns credit upon completion of an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program registered with the FDOE under Chapter 446, F.S., may use such credit to satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in paragraph (3)(e) or (3)(g).

Adult Education Student Standard Diploma Requirements – s. 1003.4282(6)(b), F.S.

94. What are the course and assessment requirements for an adult student to be awarded a standard high school diploma?

A student in an adult general education program ([s. 1004.93, F.S.](#)) will be awarded a standard diploma if the student meets the requirements for the 24-credit option ([s. 1003.4282, F.S.](#)), or the 18-credit ACCEL option ([s. 1002.3105\(5\), F.S.](#)) with possible exceptions that include the following:

- One elective credit may be substituted for the one-credit requirement in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts.

- The district school board may waive the requirement that two of the science credits include a laboratory component.
- The one credit in physical education may be substituted with an elective credit.

95. Where can one find additional information related to the adult student standard diploma requirements?

The [Career and Adult Education Technical Assistance Papers](#) web page provides guidance on the requirements for adults to complete the required courses and state assessments to earn a standard high school diploma.

Standard Diploma Designations – s. 1003.4285, F.S.

96. What are the standard diploma designations?

The two designations are the scholar diploma designation and the merit diploma designation.

97. Are these designations different diplomas?

No. There is one Florida standard diploma with two possible designations.

98. Is there a deadline for a student to choose a designation to work toward?

No.

99. Is a student required to work toward a standard high school diploma designation?

No.

100. Can a student earn more than one standard high school diploma designation?

Yes. A student can earn both standard high school diploma designations.

101. What are the requirements for a scholar designation ([s. 1003.4285\(a\), F.S.](#)), on a standard diploma for students entering grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter?

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must do the following to earn a scholar diploma designation:

- Earn one credit in Algebra 2 or an equally rigorous course;
- Pass the Geometry EOC assessment;
- Earn one credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC assessment;
- Earn one credit in Chemistry or Physics;
- Earn one credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics;
- Pass the U.S. History EOC assessment;
- Earn two credits in the same World Language; and
- Earn at least one credit in an AP, IB, AICE or dual enrollment course.

A student enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology course who takes the respective assessment and earns the minimum score necessary to earn college credit meets the requirement without having to take the state Biology 1 EOC assessment.

Students who take Biology 1 through dual enrollment and choose to pursue the scholar designation must take the Biology 1 EOC. The EOC will be used for the designation only. The

content in the sequence BSC X010 and BSC X011 or BSC X007 and BSC X008 are comparable to the standards for Biology 1 and may be used as preparation for the Biology EOC.

A student enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE course that includes U.S. History topics who takes the respective assessment and earns the minimum score necessary to earn college credit meets the requirement without having to take the state U.S. History EOC assessment.

Students who take U.S. History through dual enrollment and choose to pursue the scholar designation must take the U.S. History EOC. The EOC will be used for the designation only. The content in the AMH X010 and AMH X020 sequence is comparable to the standards for U.S. History and may be used for preparation for the U.S. History EOC. All other AMH courses should be reviewed by the school district and postsecondary institution to determine if the course(s) may be used as preparation for the U.S. History EOC.

102. Which courses are considered equally rigorous to Algebra 2 for a scholar diploma designation?

Equally Rigorous to Algebra 2 (1200330)	
1200340	Algebra 2 Honors
1298310	Advanced Topics in Mathematics
1200395	IB Middle Years Program Algebra 2
1209825	Pre-AICE Mathematics 3 IGSCCE Level
1201300 and 1201315 or 1211300	Combination of Mathematical Analysis Honors and Analysis of Functions or Trigonometry Honors
Any dual enrollment course or other college, credit-bearing AICE, AP or IB mathematics course with a passing score on the associated exam.	

103. Which courses are equally rigorous to Statistics for a scholar diploma designation?

Equally Rigorous to Statistics	
1210323	IB Statistics and Probability
1202362	AICE Mathematics and Probability and Statistics 1 AS Level
1202364	AICE Mathematics and Probability and Statistics 2 A Level
1210310	IB Statistics and Introductory Differential Calculus
1201300 and 1201315 or 1211300	Combination of Mathematical Analysis Honors and Analysis of Functions Honors or Trigonometry Honors
1202340	Pre-calculus Honors
1202300	Calculus Honors
Any dual enrollment course or other college, credit-bearing AICE, AP or IB mathematics course with a passing score on the associated exam.	

104. Which courses satisfy the “one credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics” for a scholar diploma designation?

To meet the requirement, the credit must be attained by successfully completing a science course with an “EQ” (equally rigorous) subject code. These courses include accelerated courses (e.g., dual enrollment, AP, IB and AICE). For more information, refer to the current year’s [CCD](#).

105. Where can one locate the subject codes for high school-level courses?

Refer to the current year’s [CCD](#):

- Section 3 – Grades 9 to 12 and Adult Education Courses;
- Section 4 – Exceptional Student Education K-12 Education Courses; and

- Section 5 – Career and Technical Education Programs and Courses.

106. Where can one locate high school subject codes assigned to mathematics and science dual enrollment courses?

Refer to the Dual Enrollment Course – High School Subject Area Equivalency List on the [Articulation Office](#) web page.

107. What are the requirements for a merit designation on a standard diploma?

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements based on the grade 9 cohort year, a student must attain one or more industry certifications from the list established under [s. 1003.492, F.S.](#)

108. Can a student who has completed the Integrated Science (IS) series (1-3) and who passes the Biology 1 EOC assessment meet the requirement of having completed one credit in Chemistry or Physics for the scholar diploma designation?

Yes. Completion of the entire three course IS series, either standard or honors, constitutes equivalencies for Biology 1 (2000310), Chemistry 1 (2003340) and Physics (2003380), satisfying the graduation requirement of one biology course and two equally rigorous science courses ([Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.](#)).

109. Can a student participating in an IB or an AICE curriculum program be eligible for the scholar diploma designation or merit diploma designation?

Yes. A student may earn both diploma designations.

110. What code is used to record that a student received a scholar or merit high school diploma designation?

The diploma designation data element is in the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page.

Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) – s. 1003.4295, F.S.

111. What are the two options for a student to earn high school credit via the CAP?

A student may earn high school credit in Algebra 1, Geometry, U.S. History or Biology 1 if the student passes the corresponding statewide, standardized EOC assessment without the requirement of enrolling in or completing the course.

A student can earn high school credit in courses required for high school graduation through the passage of an AP examination or a College Level Examination Program (CLEP). If a student attains a passing score on an AP examination or CLEP, then the school district is required to award course credit to the student who is not enrolled in or who has not completed the course.

112. Where are the CLEP subject titles, course numbers and subject codes listed?

The CLEP subject titles, course numbers and subject codes are listed in the current year's [CCD](#).

113. What grade is recorded on the high school transcript for a student who earns course credit via the CAP?

For a student who graduates in the 2016-17 school year or later, a grade of “T” is recorded on the

transcript in the Grade column. “T” is defined as a passed exam (applicable only to AP, EOC and CLEP). This is reflected in the Course Grade data element (109225) located in the Student Information System on the [PK-12 Database Manuals](#) web page.

114. If a student earns course credit without enrollment in a course via the CAP, what is recorded on the high school transcript?

An entry is listed with the course name, number, credit attempted, credit earned and a grade of “T” in the term that the assessment or examination is passed.

115. If a student took and passed an EOC assessment or AP examination with enrollment in the respective course for one semester, what is recorded on the high school transcript?

The grade for the term the student was enrolled is recorded on the high school transcript and counts in the cumulative GPA. An additional course entry is listed with the course name, number, credit attempted, credit earned and a grade of “T.”

116. What code is recorded in the student transcript field when a student earns course credit via the CAP?

Information related to the applicable codes may be located in fields 39a-39e in the I/S01 Demographic section of the FASTER User Manual located at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/faster/index.htm>.

117. Can a comparative score be used to earn Algebra 1 credit via the CAP?

No. [Section 1003.4295\(3\), F.S.](#), specifies that the CAP allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an AP examination, a CLEP or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course (Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry and U.S. History).

Postsecondary Education Readiness

118. Are school districts required to assess identified students in the 11th grade on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT), ACT or SAT?

No; however, [s. 1008.25\(4\)\(a\), F.S.](#), requires that each student who does not achieve a Level 3 or above on the statewide, standardized ELA assessment; the statewide, standardized mathematics assessment; or the Algebra 1 EOC assessment must be evaluated to determine the nature of the student’s difficulty, the areas of academic need and strategies for providing academic supports to improve the student’s performance.

119. Are the college-ready and college-success courses still available?

Yes. Districts and schools will continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of each student regarding course enrollment and instructional support per [s. 1008.25\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#) The following college-ready and college-success courses are available in the current year’s [CCD](#) and [CPALMS](#):

- Reading for College Success (1008350);
- Mathematics for College Success (1200410);
- Writing for College Success (1009370);
- English 4: Florida College Prep (1001405); and
- Mathematics for College Readiness (1200700).

120. Is the PERT still available?

Yes. The PERT will continue to be available to districts to administer as a college-ready assessment, and will continue as a comparative score for students who entered grade 9 in 2017-18 or earlier to meet the Algebra 1 EOC assessment requirement as per [Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.](#)

Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program – s. 1003.432, F.S.

121. What does “biliteracy” mean?

“Biliteracy” means attainment of a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English.

122. What does Gold and Silver mean related to the Seal of Biliteracy?

“Gold” means the highest level of competency certified by the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program. “Silver” means the second-highest level of competency certified by the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program.

123. What is the purpose of the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program?

The purpose of the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program is the following:

- Encourage students to study world languages;
- Certify attainment of biliteracy;
- Provide employers with a method of identifying an individual with biliteracy skills who is seeking employment;
- Provide a postsecondary institution with a method of recognizing an applicant with biliteracy skills who is seeking admission to the postsecondary institution;
- Recognize and promote world language instruction in public schools; and
- Affirm the value of diversity, honor multiple cultures and languages, and strengthen the relationships between cultures in a community.

124. Where will the “Gold” or “Silver” Seal of Biliteracy be signified for a student?

Effective for a student who graduates in the 2016-17 school year or later, a student’s biliteracy is signified on a high school diploma and transcript either as a Gold Seal of Biliteracy, a Silver Seal of Biliteracy, or both a Gold and a Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

125. Which entity is required to prepare and provide the Gold Seal of Biliteracy and the Silver Seal of Biliteracy?

Each school district must affix an appropriate insignia to the student’s diploma indicating that the student has been awarded the Gold or Silver Seal of Biliteracy, or both. The insignias are available on the World Languages ([Foreign Languages](#)) web page.

[Rule 6A-1.0995, F.A.C.](#), Form of High School Diploma, was revised to include specific guidance for districts (effective March 22, 2017).

126. Can a school district or the FDOE charge a fee for the Gold or Silver Seal of Biliteracy?

No.

127. What are the requirements for a student to earn the Gold or Silver Seal of Biliteracy?

In order to implement [s. 1003.432, F.S.](#), the State Board of Education adopted [Rule 6A-1.09951, F.A.C.](#), Requirements for the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program (effective March 22, 2017).

The memorandum, [Requirements for the Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program](#), contains information to assist districts with implementation (DPS: 2017-38, dated April 14, 2017).

Bright Futures Scholarship Program – ss. [1009.531](#), [1009.532](#) and [1009.536, F.S.](#)

128. What are the changes to the initial eligibility test score requirements?

Examination score requirements for initial award eligibility were made to align ACT and SAT examination scores with SAT[®] national percentile ranks. A student must achieve the following scores:

Type	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT/SAT)
Florida Academic Scholars	2020-2021 Graduation 29/1330
Florida Medallion Scholars	2020-2021 Graduation 25/1210

For more information, visit [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#).

129. What is the initial award application deadline for a midyear high school graduate?

The application deadline for a student who graduates from high school midyear is December 31 of the student's graduation year.

130. Is there a requirement for school districts to provide a complete and accurate Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Evaluation Report and Key?

Yes, to each high school student in grades 11 and 12.

131. Is there an opportunity for a student to qualify for a particular award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program if the student does not meet all of the requirements for that award by the applicable deadlines?

Yes. A student may be allowed additional time to complete the requirements only if the principal of the student's school or the district superintendent verifies that the deficiency is caused by the fact that the school district personnel provided inaccurate or incomplete information to the student.

132. How long is a student graduating from high school eligible to receive an initial award?

A student who earns an initial award may accept funding at any time during the five-year eligibility period following high school graduation.

133. Can a student who applies for an initial award by high school graduation but does not accept the award reapply for the award?

Yes. A student may reapply during subsequent application periods for up to five years after high school graduation.

For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award and discontinues the student's education to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of the five-year renewal period will commence upon the date of separation from active duty.

For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award but is unable to accept an initial award because of a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months, which begins within one year after completion of high school, the five-year renewal period begins upon the completion of the religious or service obligation.

134. Is there a cap on the number of semester credit hours for an annual award?

No. The restriction that annual awards may be for up to 45 semester credit hours or the equivalent was eliminated.

135. Is there a new option for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar to be eligible for a renewal award like a Florida Gold Seal Scholar?

Yes. A student must maintain the equivalent of a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with an opportunity for a one-time restoration pursuant to [s. 1009.536, F.S.](#)

136. Where is information on state financial aid programs located?

The FDOE's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships, including the [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#). To learn more, visit the [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) website.

Florida Career and Professional Education Act – s. 1003.491, F.S.

137. The Florida Career and Professional Education Act provides a planning partnership between business and education communities and a strategic three-year plan. Is there a revision to the strategy included in the plan to recruit students into career-themed courses and career and professional academies ([s. 1003.491\(3\)\(j\), F.S.](#))?

Yes. School boards must provide opportunities for students who may be deemed as potential dropouts or whose cumulative GPA drops below 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) to enroll in career-themed courses and career and professional academics.

Students must be provided in-person academic advising that includes information on career education programs by a certified school counselor or the school principal or designee during any semester the students are at risk of dropping out or have a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale).