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April 24, 2017

Dawson County Parents/Guardians,

The Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 provides an opportunity for students to “Test Out” of end-of-course courses. Under the provisions of the rule, students may “Test-Out” of any course for which there is an associated End Of Course test [EOC], and they may also earn credit for the course through that process. For example, a student may attempt the Biology EOC prior to taking the course. If the student reaches the performance level of “Distinguished” (grade conversion score of 92 or higher), the local board of education shall award the student the Biology course credit. A student may “test-out” of any course that has an associated EOC. As stated in the Rule, **students may earn no more than three units of credit by demonstrating subject area competency in this fashion.**

DCHS End of Course (EOC) Courses

9th: Physical Science; 9th Grade Literature; and Coordinate Algebra

10th: Analytic Geometry; Biology

11th: US History; American Literature

12th: Economics

Student Eligibility – Students must meet the following requirements to exercise this option:

1. Not currently or previously enrolled in the course,
2. Have earned a grade of B or better in the most recent course that is the same content area of the course for which the student is attempting the EOC (i.e. to attempt the Physical Science EOC, the student must have a B or higher in the most recently completed science course),
3. Received a teacher recommendation from the teacher of the most recent course in the same content area for which the student is attempting the EOC, and
4. Received parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age.

Consideration of the test-out option will not be exercised for students without deliberation and clear evidence of the likelihood of student success both on the test itself and in future coursework/endeavors. Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria above shall not be assessed for this purpose.

Guidelines:

1. Students have **only one opportunity per course** to demonstrate subject area competency through the test-out option.
2. Dawson County will utilize the GaDOE designated summer administration window for “test-out” options (exception for students enrolled at Hightower with administrative approval). All EOC “test-out” administrations will be conducted online.
3. Students who do not reach the performance level of “Distinguished” when attempting to “test-out”, must enroll in the EOC course and take the EOC at the conclusion of that course, regardless of the original “test-out” score. EOC scores may not be banked.
4. Students who are currently enrolled in, or who have previously been enrolled in, a higher-level course cannot attempt to earn credit by testing out. For example, a student taking AP Physics may not earn credit for Physical Science through this process.
5. Once a test-out credit has been posted to a student’s transcript, a student may not enroll in the course and course credit cannot be removed from the student’s transcript.

Costs to Dawson County Students

A complete application and \$50 payment is due to the high school by May 26th (last day of school). **The state will refund \$50 only to students who reach the performance level of “Distinguished”.** Students who attain the performance levels of “Beginning”, “Developing”, or “Proficient” will not be refunded the fee and will not earn course credit; these students must enroll in the course and will take the associated EOC again at the end of the course.

Availability of Test-Out Option for Dawson County Students

For the 2017-18 school year, the opportunity for Dawson County School students to test-out will be as follows:

- **Monday, June 19th: EOC 9th Grade Lit Writing, American Lit Writing**
- **Tuesday, June 20th: 9th Grade Lit, American Lit, Physical Science, Biology**
- **Wednesday, June 21st: Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, US History & Economics**

Credit Application to Transcripts

The “Distinguished” score will be recorded on the student’s transcript. Full credit for the course will be awarded, however the score will not impact the student’s GPA in any way. Only students enrolled in Dawson County Schools may participate in testing.

Under NCAA requirements, units of credit earned through testing-out using the EOC will not count as core course credit for athletic aid for any student seeking NCAA Division I or II athletic scholarships. Post-secondary schools outside the state of Georgia may not accept test-out credits; students should check with the prospective university to determine their policy.

Additional EOC resources including assessment guides may be found at:

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>. Assessment guides and resources are found on the right under Helpful Resources: Georgia Milestones

Please contact your guidance counselor to see if you qualify for this option. Any additional questions may be directed to Brody Hughes at bhughes@dawson.k12.ga.us or 706-265-6555.

Sincerely,

Richard Crumley
DCHS Principal

Revised 4/11/2017