

Mr. Keith L. Ball  
Principal



Assistant Principals  
Dr. Amanda Ruiz  
Dr. Dan Snipes  
Mrs. Lyn Turnell  
Mr. Robert Van Alstyne

**ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL**  
6565 Putnam Ford Drive  
Woodstock, Georgia 30189  
(770) 721-3120  
Fax (770) 926-4157

February 01, 2017

**Dear Parents:**

Pursuant to new statutorily-required provisions contained within the State Board of Education Rule regarding Awarding Units of Credit, students taking high school courses will now be able to “test out” of courses which have an associated Milestones End-of-Course test (EOC). This impacts students wishing to complete the following eight HS courses: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature, American Literature, Geometry, Algebra, US History, Economics, Biology and Physical Science.

To qualify for this test-out option, students must:

- Not currently be enrolled (or previously enrolled) in the course;
- 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, based on the following matrix:

<b>Course for which student wishes to test out</b>	<b>Prerequisite course</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Literature	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts
American Literature	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Literature
Physical Science	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science
Biology	Physical Science
Algebra	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math
Geometry	Algebra
US History	High School Social Studies course
Economics	No Prerequisite
<i>Note: Exceptions to these prerequisites require Counselor and Principal approval.</i>	

- Have a recommendation from the teacher of the most recent course in the same content area as outlined above (or, if not available, a teacher in the same content area with knowledge of the student’s academic achievement) for which the student is attempting the EOC;
- Have parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age; and,
- Have not tested out of more than three courses during his/her high school career.

When students attempt to earn course credit through test-out opportunity, the following state-established rules apply:

- Students must pay a \$50 registration fee. If a student scores at the “DISTINGUISHED LEARNER” Performance Level, the fee will be refunded;
- Students have only one opportunity per course to demonstrate subject area competency;
- Students must test during the state-approved testing windows in accordance with the CCSD-approved testing calendar;

- If a student does not reach the performance level of DISTINGUISHED LEARNER when attempting to test out and the course is required for graduation, the student will be required to enroll in and complete the associated course and retake the EOC even if the student made a passing score on the EOC during the testing-out attempt; and,
- A student may not test out of a course if he/she has been enrolled in a higher level course in the same content area. For example, a student taking AP Physics may not earn credit for Physical Science through this test-out option.

Testing out may not be recommended for student athletes who anticipate competing at the collegiate level. The NCAA Clearinghouse, which establishes athletic eligibility rules for college students, differs from state and local graduation rules and explicitly prohibits the use of “courses completed through credit-by-exam” for purposes of collegiate athletic eligibility.

Students who earn course credit by testing out (scoring DISTINGUISHED LEARNER on the EOC) will NOT have the opportunity to re-take the course at a future time in order to improve the course grade. The EOC grade conversion score will be recorded on the transcript as the course grade and the transcript will reflect “course completed through credit-by-exam.” The student’s Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated utilizing the EOC test-out grade conversion score. As such, it is also important that students and parents realize that the test-out option can impact GPA and class ranking.

Additionally, the Georgia Student Finance Commission will include this score in the calculation for the HOPE Scholarship/Grant Program. *Note: The Georgia Student Finance Commission will only calculate HOPE GPA for students enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.*

Interested students should speak with their academic counselor in this regard. All paperwork must be filed and registration payment submitted to the school three weeks prior to the scheduled test date based on the published testing calendar. **(Due to Winter Break, the deadline is Friday February 17 at 3:15PM.)**

Etowah High School will be testing on March 14, 15, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Students will be called to the counseling office the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> to get a pass to test. At that time, they will receive their assigned test date, time, and testing location.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Ball

Principal

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
END-OF-COURSE TEST-OUT REQUEST

Pursuant to State Board Rule 160-5-1-.15, students may have one opportunity to test-out of a course with an associated EOC. **Reviewer must initial that all criteria listed below have been met.** To be eligible, a student must:

- 1. NOT be currently or previously enrolled in the requested course (or a higher level course of same content)
- 2. Have earned a final grade of at least B in a previous same content area course (based on published matrix)
- 3. Have teacher recommendation from a teacher in content area of requested Milestones EOC
- 4. Have parent/guardian permission (if under age 18)
- 5. Submit \$50 registration fee (if student reaches DISTINGUISHED LEARNER Performance Level, registration fee will be refunded)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student GTID: \_\_\_\_\_

EOC Subject requested: \_\_\_\_\_ EOC Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Subject Area Final Grade (course name and final grade): \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖  I recommend this student for test-out option
- ❖  I do NOT recommend this student for test-out option

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Teacher name and subject taught)

❖ Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Required if student is under age 18)

Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Review: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Reminders:**

1. Students who attempt to test out using EOC must score at the "DISTINGUISHED LEARNER" level in order to receive course credit.
2. Students have only 1 opportunity per course to demonstrate content mastery (limit is 3 high school courses).
3. Testing must occur during regularly scheduled testing windows.
4. The EOC score will be recorded on the transcript as the course grade (may impact class ranking).
5. If the course is required for graduation and the student does not reach DISTINGUISHED LEARNER level, the student will be required to take the course AND retake the EOC for course credit.
6. Students who test out (reach DISTINGUISHED LEARNER on the EOC) may not take the course at a later date in order to improve the course grade.
7. NCAA Clearinghouse rules prohibit inclusion of "courses completed through credit-by-exam" for purposes of athletic eligibility at the college level. Please consider this option carefully if student athlete anticipates competing at the collegiate level.