

QUICK GUIDE: END-OF-YEAR TESTING

Elementary and Middle School

Students in 3rd through 8th grade are required to take standardized **end-of-grade (EOG) tests** to measure how they are doing in school. How students do on these tests can affect whether they advance to the next grade.

For all students, these tests are important in how they progress in school, but they also provide important information on how well the school is educating the child. The North Carolina Supreme Court has said that students who do not pass these tests are probably not receiving a sound basic education, which is their constitutional right.

Local districts set their own requirements for students to move to the next grade, which are usually based on grades in their classes. In addition to the local requirements, students generally must pass (score a III or IV) the EOG in order to proceed to the next grade. The 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades are called “gateways.” The State has placed special emphasis on these years.

Students who do not pass the EOG must be given a chance to retake the test. If students still do not pass, they must be given “focused intervention,” which usually means summer school. They can then retake the EOG. If they still do not pass, the parent can request that the student be promoted. A special committee considers the request and makes a decision; the parent does not vote on the promotion decision, but can participate in the meeting and speak on behalf of the child.

High School

High school students must take standardized end-of-course (EOC) tests to measure whether they mastered certain subjects. How students do on these tests affects whether they get credit for classes.

Students who started high school in 2006-2007 must take and pass (score a III or IV) EOCs in English I, U.S. History, Biology, Civics and Economics, and Algebra I in order to graduate from high school with a diploma.

Students who score a I or II on an EOC but maintained a passing grade for the class must have the chance to retake the test. If the student still scores a I or II, the school should provide focused intervention (usually tutoring), give a second retest opportunity, and review the student’s record in the class to determine whether the student should get credit for the course – the principal makes the final decision.

