



WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

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Once again, the Georgia Department of Education is allowing students the option to “test out” of a high school course. This allows high aptitude students an opportunity to earn course credit without taking the class.

To test out, students can take an End of Course (EOC) assessment (before enrolling in and taking the course) and if they score at the “Distinguished Learner” level on the assessment, they will be awarded credit for that course.

While this is an opportunity for students to move past some high school courses without taking them, parents should carefully weigh the impact since some classes are stepping stones for others. While a student might successfully test out of one course, it does not mean that he or she will necessarily be successful in the next course, especially if they missed foundational concepts.

Below are some general facts about the testing out process as well as student eligibility requirements.

What is “Testing Out,” and how does it work?

- A student may earn up to three credits total by testing out.
- A student must score at the “Distinguished Learner” level in order to earn the course credit.
- A student is only given one opportunity to earn the “Distinguished Learner” level.
- A student who is currently enrolled in the course or has previously been enrolled in the course is not eligible to test out. Also, a student who is currently enrolled in or has previously been enrolled in a higher level course is not eligible to test out.
- Students who score in the “Distinguished Learner” level will have the course and EOC grade recorded on their transcript.
- The EOC grade will be calculated into the student’s high school GPA.
- A student will earn on-level course credit if the test out is successful. No quality points or honors level distinction will be available for course credit earned through testing out.
- The NCAA will NOT recognize the credits earned through testing out as core course credit for athletic aid for any student seeking NCAA Division I or II athletic scholarships. This may impact a student’s eligibility for scholarship options if they participate in the test out. It is the parent’s responsibility to check the NCAA requirements.
- Students/parents must pay a \$50 state test fee per test to their school prior to attempting an EOC for test out purposes. The state test fee will be refunded if the student scores at the “Distinguished Learner” level.
- If the student does not score at the “Distinguished Learner” level, the student will not receive credit for the course and the state test fee will not be refunded. The student must take the course within their regular course of study and retake the EOC after completion of the course. Scores for unsuccessful test-out attempts will not be recorded on transcripts.

- There are specific testing out windows. The windows for the 2017-18 school year for eligible students to test out are September 20-22, 2016 and March 14-16, 2017. Schools will set the exact date and time within this window. The test out is exclusively administered online unless a student has a current IEP or 504 plan that stipulates otherwise.

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- The student has never been enrolled in the course.
- The student must have earned a minimum numerical grade of 80 in a prerequisite course in the same content area as the selected EOC.
- The student must receive recommendations from his/her school counselor AND from his/her teacher for the prerequisite course.
- The student must receive parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age. Students 18 or over and emancipated minor students may complete the permission form themselves.

It is very important that you are aware of the long-term implications of testing out for your child's future academic endeavors. Please see your child's counselor for more information.

Sincerely,

Candice E. Williams-Hickman

Candice E. Williams-Hickman
Testing Coordinator
Westlake High School