



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 18, 2015

To: School Board Members
Principals and Teachers
Cabinet

From: Barbara Jenkins, Superintendent

Subject: Grading Policy Clarification and Changes

Please refer to the below guidance concerning changes to the use of assessments in student scores for the 2014-15 school year.

Students Taking Common Final Assessments

All students taking common final exams in applicable courses will receive the exam as 20% of the course grade for initial calculation. We will then ONLY consider the calculation if it IMPROVES the student's grade. In any case where the exam lowers the student's grade, the final common exam calculation will be removed. In essence, during this baseline year, OCPS will do no harm to any student's grades based on Common Final Assessments (locally created EOCs).

Elementary School EOCs

As previously announced, elementary schools are NOT considering EOCs in calculation of student grades. More importantly, third grade promotion considerations will NOT include FSA outcomes which have not been validated. Instead, principals, parents and teachers will look at various data regarding student performance to consider any need for retention

Students Taking Florida Standards Assessments in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

For the 2014-2015 school year only, because of the unavailability of independently validated statewide assessment results in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry, the statutory requirements to include these results in the final course grade are inoperative. As a result, schools should calculate final course grades and make promotion decisions without regard to the 30 percent requirement that typically applies. The absence of EOC results alone in these courses will not result in a grade of incomplete. A student's final grade in these courses will be calculated from

50% of the Semester 1 grade and 50% of the Semester 2 grade. OCPS will NOT recalculate grades this year should the state eventually validate these EOCs.

Students Taking Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Assessments (Algebra I retake, Geometry retake, Biology, US History, Civics)

The results of assessments aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Assessments are still required by statute to be used as 30% of the course grade in applicable courses.

We are pleased to provide the FOIL presentation with updated information at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/foil.stml>.