



## THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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April 20, 2020

Robert W. Runcie  
Superintendent of Schools

To: Students enrolled in Algebra 1, or equivalent course, in SY 2019-20  
Teachers of Algebra 1, or equivalent course, in SY 2019-20  
Administrators of schools offering Algebra 1, or equivalent course, in SY 2019-20

RE: Guidance on the End-of-Course examination, final grade calculation, and graduation eligibility for students enrolled in Algebra 1, or equivalent course, during the 2019-20 school year

This correspondence provides guidance on how Broward County Public Schools will be implementing the regulations from the State of Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) concerning the current statutory requirement for each student to receive a passing score on the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) examination. **For the purpose of this memo, Algebra 1 Honors, Algebra 1B, Pre-AP Algebra 1, IB MYP Algebra 1, Pre-AICE Math 1 IG are all considered to be equivalent to Algebra 1.**

### For all students,

- The requirement to take the Algebra 1 EOC in order to receive credit for the course is waived. Therefore, students will not take an Algebra 1 EOC.
- The calculation of the final grade for Algebra 1 will be made by replacing the EOC score, 30% of the final grade by Florida Statute, with one of the quarter marks according to the following criteria:
  - If the student earns a minimum grade of a C in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then the final exam grade will be replaced by highest letter grade of the four quarters for the calculation of the final course grade;
  - If the student does not earn a minimum grade of a C in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then the final exam grade will be replaced by the higher of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter letter grade for the calculation of the final course grade;
  - The intent of the system outlined above is to benefit students that remain engaged throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- Teachers will enter 4<sup>th</sup> quarter marks on or before May 29, 2020 for Seniors and June 3, 2020 for all other grades. The district will then run a program to calculate the final course grade from the four quarter grades, the mid-term examination, and the appropriate highest quarter letter grade replacement for the 30% component previously reserved for the EOC. No additional work or calculation will be required of teachers or school administrators.

In addition to using the Algebra 1 EOC for calculating the final course grade, the FLDOE requires that students earn a passing score on the EOC prior to graduation. The following guidance is provided on the modifications to this requirement.

- For students in the graduating Class of 2020, the requirement to having a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC is waived. Therefore, earning a passing final grade in the Algebra 1 course is the only requirement to fulfill the Algebra 1 graduation requirement.
- For students in the graduating Class of 2021 and beyond, the requirement to have earned the Algebra 1 credit remains in effect but the requirement to take the Algebra 1 EOC to earn the Algebra 1 credit is waived.
- For students in the graduating Class of 2021 and beyond, the requirement to have demonstrated proficiency of Algebra 1 using a FLDOE-approved assessment remains in effect to comply with graduation criteria.



Therefore, to comply with the need for students to demonstrate the Algebra 1 proficiency using a FLDOE-approved assessment the following guidance is provided.

For students in the graduating **Class of 2021**, Broward County Public Schools is strongly encouraging students to utilize every possible method to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1 starting in August 2020. This means taking the SAT and/or ACT to earn a passing concordance score as outlined above and taking Algebra 1 End-of-Course RE-take opportunities provided by the State of Florida beginning in the Fall of 2020. In addition, students who started 9th grade in the 2017-2018 school year can also utilize the Mathematics PERT test with a score of 97 or higher as a concordant score. It is the BCPS recommendation that **ONLY STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2021 SIT FOR ALGEBRA 1 RETAKE EXAMINATIONS IN THE FALL OF 2020** if they have not earned a concordant score.

For students in the graduating **Class of 2022 and beyond** (students currently in grade 10 or lower), students should plan on meeting the requirement by using a concordant score on a test other than the Algebra 1 EOC prior to their graduation. These options include:

- Earn a passing score on the Geometry EOC taken after Spring 2020, or
- Earn a minimum of a 430 on the PSAT Grade 10 or NMSQT math examination, or
- Earn a minimum score of 420 on an SAT mathematics administration, or
- Earn a minimum score of 16 on an ACT mathematics administration.

For students in the graduating **Class of 2022 and beyond** (students currently in grade 10 or lower), using a concordance score means that students need to take one less test. Students should focus their preparation on their college readiness examination of an SAT or ACT at the time they would normally take these examinations during their development. The PSAT is administered in the Fall of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year for all students and BCPS provides an opportunity for all students to take the SAT in school in the Spring of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. Additionally, students are able to register for multiple SAT or ACT examinations at their convenience for a fee. Both the College Board (SAT) and ACT, Inc. (ACT) provide fee reduction and fee waivers based on family income.

Further information and additional resources can be found at the following:

- State of Florida, Department of Education: <http://www.fl DOE.org/>
- College Board, PSAT/NMSQT/SAT: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>
- ACT, Inc., ACT: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>

Questions related to the Algebra 1 End-of-Course examination, Algebra 1 final course calculation, and the Algebra 1 proficiency requirement for graduation should be directed to the student's school counselor.



## **Final Grade Calculation for Algebra 1 in Spring 2020**

The Final Grade for a course with an End-of-Course examination is calculated using the following rules:

1. Students receive a letter grade for each quarter based on the teacher's gradebook. The letter grade is based on the gradebook using the following rubric.
  - a. Each Quarter grade counts as 15% of the final course grade.
  - b. The mid-term exam counts as 10% of the final course grade.
  - c. The EOC counts as 30% of the final course grade. For students in Algebra 1, or equivalent, completing the course in the Spring of 2020. The EOC exam will not be administered. The intent of the system outlined above is to benefit students that remain engaged throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The will EOC grade will be replaced with one of the four quarter grades using the guidance below:
    - i. If the student earns a minimum grade of a C in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then the final exam grade will be replaced by highest letter grade of the four quarters for the calculation of the final course grade;
    - ii. If the student does not earn a minimum grade of a C in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, then the final exam grade will be replaced by the higher of the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter letter grade for the calculation of the final course grade.

The method for calculating the Final Course grade is provided on Page 101 of [SBBC Policy 6000.1](#) (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>).

2. Students enrolled in an honors course section will have 1.0 grade point added to their final grade if they earn a grade of C or above.



## **Graduation Requirement of Algebra 1 EOC for Spring 2020**

If you are a **12<sup>th</sup> grader** this year (a senior in the Class of 2020):

- You need to have passed the Algebra 1 course.
  - You **do not need** to take the Algebra 1 End-of-Course examination.
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If you are an **11<sup>th</sup> grader** this year (a junior in the Class of 2021) and **taking Algebra 1 this year**:

- You need to pass the Algebra 1 course.
  - You **do not need** to take an Algebra 1 End-of-Course examination to pass the Algebra 1 course
  - You **need to demonstrate Algebra 1 proficiency prior to graduation** using a State of Florida approved external examination.
  - It is recommended that students in the Class of 2021 do all of the following until the Algebra 1 proficiency requirement is met:
    - Have a passing score on the Geometry EOC
    - Have a concordance score of the SAT math of 420 or on the ACT math of 16
    - Take Algebra 1 Retake exams starting in the Fall of 2020
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If you are a **10<sup>th</sup> grader or younger** this year, (a sophomore in the Class of 2021 through Kindergarten in the Class of 2032), and **taking Algebra 1 this year**:

- You need to pass the Algebra 1 course.
- You **do not need** to take an Algebra 1 End-of-Course examination to pass the Algebra 1 course
- You **need to demonstrate Algebra 1 proficiency prior to graduation** using a State of Florida approved external examination.
- It is recommended that students in the Class of 2021 do all of the following until the Algebra 1 proficiency requirement is met:
  - Have a passing score on the Geometry EOC
  - Have a concordance score of the SAT math of 420 or on the ACT math of 16
- It is strongly recommended that students **do not take Algebra 1 Retake exams** until they have failed to earn a concordance score or a passing grade on the Geometry EOC. Only after completing their junior year, and if the student has not meet the Algebra 1 EOC requirement by a concordant method, should a student commence taking the Algebra 1 Retake exam.