

State Math FSA-EOC PCS District Position

May 2015

The school district recently received a memo from the Florida Department of Education (Memo DPS: 2015-81) regarding the delay in receipt of student achievement data for the Florida Standards End-of-Course Assessments (EOC) in Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2). Pinellas County Schools will implement the procedures below during this transitional year as we await the validation of the new state assessments. The information for the calculation of final grades and Summer Bridge enrollment below is only applicable to this transitional school year and summer (2014-15). This memo applies only to the new Florida Standards End-of-Course Assessments (EOC) for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. The Civics, Biology, and US History End-of-Course Assessments (EOC) are not impacted by these changes as they are based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and have been in use for multiple years.

- **Graduation Requirement:** Earning a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC is still a state assessment requirement in statute for all students in high school and middle school today.
- **Final Course Grades:** The major change here is that the new EOCs in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 will not count as 30% of a student's final year-long grade. Instead, students currently enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 and who took the new Algebra 1 EOC (whether in middle school or high school) will have final year-long grades composed of the following 2 elements pulled into one year-long grade for the course:
 - Semester 1 Grade: Quarter 1 grade, Quarter 2 grade, and Semester 1 mid-term exam
 - Semester 2 Grade: Quarter 3 grade, Quarter 4 grade
 - Final Year-Long Grade will be based on the average of the Semester 1 Grade and Semester 2 Grade
 - Lastly, next fall, when student scores do arrive in schools for this past spring's new EOC assessments in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2, Pinellas County Schools will review each student's records to determine if the inclusion of those scores would assist a student's grade point average in the course. If so, we will use the score. If the scores do not assist a student's grade point average, we will not use the scores that arrive in the fall.
- **Guidance for Summer Bridge Enrollment in Math Programs** (for parents/students who seek Algebra support over summer):
 - High school students will be administered the PERT (Post-Secondary Education Readiness Test) if they have not already taken the test, in order to determine if they can earn the concordant passing score of 97 or higher on this examination. If a student earns 97 or higher on the PERT they will not be recommended to attend the Algebra EOC preparation program in Summer Bridge because they will have met the state graduation assessment requirement in Algebra.
 - Middle school students will be guided according to their final course grades:
 - Middle school students who pass the Algebra course (with a final course grade of D or better) will be invited to take the PERT in July at a high school that is convenient to families. If the student earns a 97 or better, the student will not need to take algebra remediation in their first year in high school. It is imperative that parents selecting this option reach out to the local high school they wish to use as the site for PERT testing to ensure your student has this opportunity.
 - In the event that a middle school student is unsuccessful in the algebra course, it is imperative that they enroll in the Summer Bridge Course Recovery program at a Middle School site.