



Frequently Asked Questions about End of Course (EoC) Assessments

To go directly to an answer, click on the question or the page number. You can also type into the “find” box in the menu bar above to search by word or topic.

To return to the contents page, click on the link below the answer.

Contents

1. What is the purpose of the End of Course (EoC) assessments?	4
2. What EoCs do students have to pass for graduation?	4
3. Are the EoC assessments the new final exam?	4
4. When should we administer the EoCs?	5
5. What EoCs are currently available and how were they produced?	5
6. Why were those subjects chosen for the state-developed EoC assessments?	5
7. How do districts develop their own EoCs?	6
8. Who should administer the EoCs?.....	6
9. How do we access the EoC documents?.....	6
10. Are classroom teachers allowed to see the EoCs before administering them?	7
11. What is the EoC refresh rate?	7
12. How do we score the EoCs?	7
13. How do we report EoC scores to the PED?	8
14. What accommodations exist for English language learners (ELLs)?	8

15. When will a Language Arts EoC in Spanish be available as an EoC for ELLs? Is there another ADC for these students in reading?..... 8

16. Some non-ELLs choose to take courses in Spanish, where available. Is it permissible for these students to take the EoCs in Spanish? 9

17. Are there EoCs in large print or Braille? 9

18. Can a district use a passing grade in a course offered by a district as evidence of proficiency in reading, writing, math, science, or social studies?..... 9

19. Does every student have to take an EoC at the end of a course for which we offer an EoC? For example, if a student passed the SBA in math during H2 year and banked that score, that student has demonstrated competency in math. Must that student still take the math EoC in H3? 9

20. How often can students retake an EoC assessment? 10

21. What accommodations are available for students with disabilities (SWDs) for the EoCs? 10

22. Some students graduating in 2014 or 2015 took U.S. History last year or the year before. Are these students still expected to pass this EoC?..... 10

23. Some students graduating in 2014 or 2015 took biology last year or the year before. Are these students still expected to pass this EoC? 11

24. May students use the CCR indicators to demonstrate competency in social studies and writing instead of taking an EoC?..... 11

25. Do the EoCs need to be printed and/or copied in color?..... 11

26. May districts reuse test booklets to cut costs for future administrations?..... 12

27. In the old Next Step Plans, a student could waive Algebra II at the end of their junior year with a parent's signature. We are all concerned and need to know whether this is still going to be allowed. 12

28. If our school’s final exam schedule does not provide testing sessions that meet the recommended times for administration of the EoCs, may we divide the test between two testing sessions or over a period of two days?..... 13

29. Is there an established passing combined score of Math and English III EoC assessments, similar to the SBA?..... 13

30. If a student does not meet proficiency on the Math SBA, but achieves a passing combined score, does that student still have to pass the Math EoC? Vice-versa for reading? 13

31. Are there plans to produce EoCs through the SBA or PARCC? Scheduling would be much more rational and much cheaper for the district. 13

32. Some students take their English courses through a college or community college as a substitute or dual-credit for their high school language arts credit. Do these students take the EOC or does their college final count as the exam? What about students taking social studies courses through a college or community college? 14

33. Will teachers who are scoring tests receive some sort of standardized rubric training from the PED or do we develop this training in our school or district?..... 14

34. Do students taking courses through IDEAL-NM have to take the EoCs?..... 14

1. What is the purpose of the End of Course (EoC) assessments?

Answer: The EoC assessments measure a student's proficiency in particular subjects. Starting in 2014, passing the EoCs will be the primary way in which students can demonstrate competency in social studies and writing, which are not assessed on the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) or the High School Graduation Assessment (HSGA). The EoCs in other subjects offer an alternative demonstration of competency (ADC) for students who do not show competency by achieving passing scores on the SBA in reading, math, or science, or on College and Career Readiness (CCR) indicators delineated in the ADC manual. The full ADC manual can be found at the link:

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/adc/ADC2012.pdf>.

Please note that 2013 graduates may demonstrate competency in all subjects simply by passing their courses. However, students may alternately demonstrate competency by passing the EoC, even if they fail the course. This provides these students with an additional opportunity to earn a diploma in 2013 provided they meet all course requirements for graduation.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

2. What EoCs do students have to pass for graduation?

Answer: Starting in fall 2013, students must take the EoCs to demonstrate competency in social studies and writing since these subjects are not assessed on the SBA or HSGA. The only other way students may show competency in these subjects is by CCR indicators as specified in the ADC manual. For social studies, students may pass the state-developed U.S. History EoC or another district-developed social studies EoC. For writing, students may take the state-developed English III exam or another district-developed writing EoC. The Public Education Department (PED) will provide separate passing standards for the English III EoC in reading and writing so that competency in both subjects may be assessed independently.

Students should take the EoCs in math and science during their high school year 3 (H3) or earlier because they can be used as ADCs in these subjects. This provides students with opportunities to graduate even if they do not pass the SBA or HSGA in reading, math, or science, or show competency via CCR indicators.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

3. Are the EoC assessments the new final exam?

Answer: The EoCs may be used by classroom teachers either to replace their final exams or in addition to their final exams. All students will need to take the social studies and English III/Writing EoCs. While not all students will need to use the EoCs as an ADC for their other classes, we recommend that they take them at the completion of each course. This way, students can bank passing EoC scores which they can use as ADCs in

case they do not pass reading, math, or science on the HSGA. Grades on the EoCs may or may not be included in students' course grades based on teacher discretion.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

4. When should we administer the EoCs?

Answer: There are two testing windows per year—at the end of the fall semester and at the end of the spring semester. The EoCs should be administered during a set testing window during the last two (2) weeks of the semester. Because schools are on different schedules, these testing windows may vary between districts.

Students should take the EoCs during the testing window closest to the completion of the courses for which they are being tested. The only students who should be tested in the fall testing window are those on semester block schedules, those in self-paced courses, or students taking the EoCs (initial or retakes) from courses they previously completed.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

5. What EoCs are currently available and how were they produced?

Answer: In the summer of 2012, the PED worked with committees of teachers to create six EoCs assessments in algebra II, biology, chemistry, integrated math III, English III, and U.S. History. These are the only state-developed EoCs at this time. However, districts are welcome and encouraged to produce their own EoCs which may more directly align with their schools' curriculum sequences. All district-developed EoCs will be made available for widespread use once they are approved by the PED.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

6. Why were those subjects chosen for the state-developed EoC assessments?

Answer: The PED facilitated production of EoC assessments in math, science, English (reading and writing), and social studies for the courses most commonly taught in the H3 year across New Mexico. The purpose of targeting the H3 year was so that the EoCs could be used most effectively as ADCs, and the EoCs were written to reflect the rigor of the H3 year. Despite this original intention, it is important to remember that the EoCs should be administered to students as they conclude a course during any high school year.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

7. How do districts develop their own EoCs?

Answer: Districts may develop their own EoCs according to protocol found on the following website: http://www.ped.state.nm.U.S./AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/EOC/Quality_Criteria_for_District.pdf. Once an EoC is approved by the PED, it may be used instead of or in addition to state-developed EoCs, and it should be treated with the same security measures. Please note that, to meet state requirements, the social studies exam must include information on the U.S. Constitution and the New Mexico Constitution regardless of the social studies course.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

8. Who should administer the EoCs?

Answer: The EoCs should be administered by professionally-licensed educators. They may be administered by classroom teachers in the same way final exams are administered. We understand that this might not adhere to the 25:1 ratio for standardized test administration, but it is allowed because of the class-specific nature of these assessments.

Directions for administration can be found on the PED's Assessment and Evaluation website: <http://www.ped.state.nm.U.S./AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/EOC/index.html>.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

9. How do we access the EoC documents?

Answer: The EoC assessments, answer documents, and scoring rubrics are only available to District Test Coordinators (DTCs) and charter School Test Coordinators (STCs). They can be found on the SOAP website at the following location: SOAP>SBA/School Grading>Docs.

Please note that we are currently updating the SOAP site and will have a button specifically for the EoCs in the future.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

10. Are classroom teachers allowed to see the EoCs before administering them?

Answer: No, neither teachers nor school staff other than DTCs and STCs are permitted to review the EoCs prior to their administration. These tests are secure and should be treated in the same manner as other high-stakes tests.

The EoCs were developed by New Mexico teachers based on the standards those teachers felt were most essential to the courses. Those standards are listed in the test frameworks on the PED website: <http://www.ped.state.nm.U.S./AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/EOC/index.html>. Teachers may reference those frameworks to familiarize themselves with the test format and content, and may use that information to assist with instruction and student preparation.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

11. What is the EoC refresh rate?

Answer: We have plans to continue the development of the EoCs. However, we do not have information about future state-developed EoC changes or item development at this time.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

12. How do we score the EoCs?

Answer: The EoC scoring rubrics are available on SOAP along with the exams. Schools are in charge of scoring the exams according to these rubrics. Raw scores should be reported to the PED. After a standard-setting meeting the week of February 19, 2013, a committee of teachers and PED staff will determine passing scores for each EoC and will report this data to schools upon its availability.

Any licensed school staff may grade the EoCs. A grader should be an expert in the content area, should be trained with the rubric, and—if possible—should not be the current teacher of the students whose tests they grade.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

13. How do we report EoC scores to the PED?

Answer: In the winter of 2013, the PED will furnish districts with a data entry tool for submission of EoC raw scores. These scores are due to the PED by February 4, 2013. Details will follow.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

14. What accommodations exist for English language learners (ELLs)?

Answer: The Spanish translation of all EoCs *except English III/Writing* will be available to schools as of spring 2013 and there is the option to translate into other native languages on the district level. The policy for taking the EoCs in languages other than English is the same as the mandate for the SBA and HSGA. The first three continuous years a student attends public school in the United States, the student may take an EoC in his or her native language. For the following two continuous years, the student may test in his or her native language if he or she still qualifies for ELL status and has submitted a waiver. This waiver will be available in the spring of 2013.

There is currently no Spanish version of the English III EoC and the option to translate is not available. ELLs who qualify by the above criteria may request a waiver from the English III/Writing EoC. The PED will furnish districts with this form in the winter of 2012–2013. All other allowable accommodations in the *New Mexico Accommodations Manual* are available, including read-aloud accommodations, except for reading passages in the English/Writing III assessment.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

15. When will a Language Arts EoC in Spanish be available as an EoC for ELLs? Is there another ADC for these students in reading?

Answer: A Spanish language version of the English/Writing III assessment is planned for 2014. Until then, there are no other ADCs for these students in reading other than the CCR indicators and HSGA retakes. However, if ELLs complete an EoC waiver, they may demonstrate competency in writing by passing their language arts courses.

ELLs with a native language other than Spanish will need a waiver for the Language Arts EoC because the test will not be available in other languages and it is not permissible to translate this test.

Once a Spanish version of a Language Arts EoC becomes available, the ELL accommodations will be the same as the regulations for the SBA and HSGA.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

16. Some non-ELLs choose to take courses in Spanish, where available. Is it permissible for these students to take the EoCs in Spanish?

Answer: The only students who may take the Spanish EoC are those who qualify by the policy outlined in question #14.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

17. Are there EoCs in large print or Braille?

Answer: Districts are responsible for producing large print and Braille EoC exams for students who require those accommodations.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

18. Can a district use a passing grade in a course offered by a district as evidence of proficiency in reading, writing, math, science, or social studies?

Answer: Yes, only for the graduating class of 2013. All following class years must exhibit competency in the core subjects of math, science, reading, social studies, and writing by achieving passing scores on the HSGA (for math, science, and reading only), by CCR indicators, or by passing the EoCs.

Note that students in the class of 2014 who have taken U.S. History in academic years previous to 2012–2013 may use a passing grade in their U.S. History course to demonstrate competency in social studies. All students in the class of 2015 and beyond must pass the U.S. History EoC and the writing portion of the English III EoC (or equivalent PED-approved district-developed EoCs) to meet graduation requirements for competency in social studies and writing, or they must achieve appropriate indicators on CCRs as ADCs for social studies and writing. The only students who may be waived from this requirement are certain ELLs who may receive a waiver for the writing requirement.

See questions #22 and #23 for related information.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

19. Does every student have to take an EoC at the end of a course for which we offer an EoC? For example, if a student passed the SBA in math during H2 year and banked that score, that student has demonstrated competency in math. Must that student still take the math EoC in H3?

Answer: Technically, no. Students with banked passing scores in math from the H2 SBA do not have to take a Math EoC because they do not need it as an ADC in that subject. All students should take Science EoCs since

science is not offered on the H2 SBA, and although students may not ultimately need passing Science EoC scores as ADCs, they should have them as backups. All students must take the English III exam, even if they received a passing score on the H2 SBA in reading, because it is the only way for students to demonstrate competency in writing.

We recommend that students take EoCs for all courses in which they are available, including those they do not need to meet graduation requirements. This will allow students to become familiar with these tests in anticipation of more widespread administration of EoCs in the future.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

20. How often can students retake an EoC assessment?

Answer: Following the rules outlined in the ADC manual, students have two chances to pass an ADC. Therefore, for the subjects assessed on the SBA and HSGA (math, reading, and science), students may take the EoCs as ADCs twice—once initially and once as a retake. For subjects not assessed on the SBA and HSGA (writing and social studies), students may take the EoCs three times—once as an initial assessment and twice as an ADC. Students with disabilities who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may take all the EoCs one additional time and the initial test may be used to establish cut scores that define a passing grade for that student.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

21. What accommodations are available for students with disabilities (SWDs) for the EoCs?

Answer: A student with a disability who is receiving special education services should be offered all accommodations as provided in the student's IEP, as long as they are allowable accommodations as described in the *New Mexico Assessment Accommodations Manual*, including an additional testing opportunity and individualized cut scores.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

22. Some students graduating in 2014 or 2015 took U.S. History last year or the year before. Are these students still expected to pass this EoC?

Answer: Students in each of these cohorts will be treated differently with respect to their social studies requirements.

Students in the 2014 cohort who took U.S. History in 2011–2012 or earlier may use a passing course grade to

demonstrate competency in social studies. After 2013, this is the only instance in which a course grade may be used to demonstrate competency in any subject. Please note that students in the 2014 cohort who take U.S. History in 2012–2013 or 2013–2014 must pass the U.S. History EoC (or district-developed state-approved social studies EoC) to graduate.

Students in the 2015 cohort who took U.S. History in previous years must still pass an EoC in social studies to demonstrate competency in this subject. They may take the state-developed U.S. History EoC, or the district may develop an EoC that more closely aligns with their H2 or H3 social studies courses.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

23. Some students graduating in 2014 or 2015 took biology last year or the year before. Are these students still expected to pass this EoC?

Answer: Science EoCs, like Math EoCs and the reading portion of the English III EoC, are used primarily as ADCs. Students only need to pass the Biology (or Chemistry) EoC if they fail the HSGA in science. Because it is important that students exhibit competency in all core subjects, we are not offering an exemption for these students who need an ADC in science.

We understand that it is difficult to ask students to pass an EoC for courses they completed in the past. However, we can provide several solutions. The first is to offer “refresher classes” to help students remember information they may have forgotten over time, which would give them a better chance of passing these exams. The second option is for a school or district to create Science EoCs that reflect the courses students take during their H3 year. Please see question #7 above for instructions on creating EoCs for PED approval.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

24. May students use the CCR indicators to demonstrate competency in social studies and writing instead of taking an EoC?

Answer: Yes, students may use the CCR indicators listed in the ADC manual as initial demonstrations of competency for social studies and writing. Students who demonstrate competency through one of these routes are not required to take the respective EoCs.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

25. Do the EoCs need to be printed and/or copied in color?

Answer: No, the EoCs may be printed and copied in grayscale. Although some pictures and diagrams are in color, neither their meaning nor readability are diminished when printed in black and white.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

26. May districts reuse test booklets to cut costs for future administrations?

Answer: Yes, as long as students do not write in the test booklets, they may be reused. The booklets must be checked, sealed, and stored in a secure location. Test booklets must be accounted for when printed copied, stored, and retrieved from storage. Any test documents that are not used or reused must be shredded to maintain test security.

The exception to this guideline is for the spring 2013 administration. After the initial administration of the EoCs in fall 2012, we have made some changes to address content concerns and to improve clarity of images. Please shred test booklets from fall 2012 and reprint for future administrations.

In addition, when we refresh the EoCs, they will need to be reprinted and recopied.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

27. In the old Next Step Plans, a student could waive Algebra II at the end of their junior year with a parent's signature. We are all concerned and need to know whether this is still going to be allowed.

Answer: State rule at 6.29.1.9 NMAC allows parents to waive the Algebra II requirement for a student and replace it with a math course as determined by the student's Next Step Plan. If this student fails the HSGA in math, the student may take an EoC for the replacement math course. Because the state only has EoCs for Integrated Math III and Algebra II at the current time, it is up to the school or district to provide an EoC for this math course.

We highly recommend that schools do not offer the Algebra II waiver for students on the standard pathway since the information and skills acquired in this course will help them as they prepare for high stakes exams. Please note that the SBA and HSGA are aligned with the New Mexico state standards, not with courses. The way in which math departments allocate standards for coverage in specific classes depends on the school. We assume that every student will cover the full range of skills and content outlined in the standards in whichever four math courses they take in high school.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

28. If our school’s final exam schedule does not provide testing sessions that meet the recommended times for administration of the EoCs, may we divide the test between two testing sessions or over a period of two days?

Answer: Administration of EoCs may be split into more than one session as long as the test is divided accordingly. Students should be given only one section of the test during each session, and must complete that section in one sitting. Students may not be shown an additional part of an EoC until that testing session begins.

We are collecting data from the fall 2012 administration regarding time requirements for the EoCs. For spring 2013 and future administrations, we will provide further guidance regarding testing sessions and time requirements.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

29. Is there an established passing combined score of Math and English III EoC assessments, similar to the SBA?

Answer: No, the EoCs are scored as individual tests and cannot be combined.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

30. If a student does not meet proficiency on the Math SBA, but achieves a passing combined score, does that student still have to pass the Math EoC? Vice-versa for reading?

Answer: As long as a student achieves a passing combined score on the SBA and both the math and reading scores are nearing proficient or above, that student has demonstrated competency in both math and reading and does not have to pass the EoC.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

31. Are there plans to produce EoCs through the SBA or PARCC? Scheduling would be much more rational and much cheaper for the district.

Answer: The EoCs are standalone tests, and there are no plans to incorporate those tests into the SBA. There has been some discussion about PARCC producing the EoCs, but we do not know how seriously they are considering those or if there is a timeline. [RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

32. Some students take their English courses through a college or community college as a substitute or dual-credit for their high school language arts credit. Do these students take the EOC or does their college final count as the exam? What about students taking social studies courses through a college or community college?

Answer: These students are still required take EoCs to demonstrate competency in writing and social studies because we have no control over the rigor, breadth, depth, or alignment of final exams in these other courses. In fact, students must take EoCs in any courses for which they receive high school credit if these exams are needed to demonstrate competency in a particular subject.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

33. Will teachers who are scoring tests receive some sort of standardized rubric training from the PED or do we develop this training in our school or district?

Answer: Districts or schools are responsible for training teachers and staff to score the EoCs according to the rubrics provided by the PED.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)

34. Do students taking courses through IDEAL-NM have to take the EoCs?

Answer: Students must take EoCs in any courses for which they receive high school credit if they are to be used to demonstrate competency in a particular subject.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS PAGE](#)