

9th-12th Grade Required Test Details

NCDPI End of Course Test (EOCs)

School Level: Middle/High

Subject/Type: Math 1, Math 3, Biology, English II

Required or Optional: Required of students enrolled the above courses

Who takes it?: All 6th-12th students

What is it and why is it important?: The EOC assessments are state-mandated tests that measure students' mastery of state standards in Mathematics.

How are results used?: The state uses EOC results for school accountability as well as teacher and principal evaluation purposes (as per State Board policy GCS-A-016). Results are also used for school improvement planning.

NCDPI NC Final Exams (NCFEs)

School Level: Elementary/Middle/High

Subject/Type: Multiple

Required or Optional: Required by state

Who takes it?: Students enrolled in selected NCFE courses

What is it and why is it important?: The NC Final Exams are state-mandated tests that measure mastery of state standards in a number of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies courses.

How are results used?: NC Final Exams are used specifically for teacher and principal evaluation via the NC Educator Evaluation System (as per State Board policy GCS-A-016). For NCFE-tested courses that carry high school credit, this test also counts for a percentage of a student's final grade in the course as per state policy.

NCDPI Career-Technical Education Tests

School Level: Middle/High

Subject/Type: Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Required or Optional: Required by state

Who takes it?: Students enrolled in various CTE courses

What is it and why is it important?: N.C. Career and Technical Education assessments assess student mastery of state standards in many career and technical education courses offered in middle and high school.

How are results used?: CTE assessment results are used for feedback on curriculum implementation and instructional practice at the local level. They are also used for state reporting, specifically for teacher and principal evaluation via the NC Educator Evaluation System (as per State Board policy GCS-A-016). For CTE-tested courses that carry high school credit, this test also counts for a percentage of a student's final grade in the course as per state policy.

Advanced Placement Tests

School Level: High

Subject/Type: Various

Required or Optional: Optional

Who takes it?: Any high school student who wants to take an AP exam, regardless of whether they are enrolled in an AP course.

What is it and why is it important?: The AP program allows students to take college-level courses and exams to earn college credit. There are 34 different AP exams that consist of multiple-choice and free-response items. All AP exams are optional for students.

How are results used?: Students' AP exam results enhance their college applications and eligibility for scholarships. Results are also used by high schools for advising and counseling students, by WCPSS for evaluating instructional effectiveness and planning curriculum, and by colleges and universities to make decisions regarding admissions and scholarships.

Pre-ACT

School Level: High

Subject/Type: College Entrance Exams

Required or Optional: Required by state

Who takes it?: Students in Grade 10

What is it and why is it important?: The Pre-ACT is a standardized, curriculum-based, multiple-choice achievement test that includes four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science, reported on the same scale as the ACT.

How are results used?: Results are used by high schools for advising and counseling students, by WCPSS for evaluating instructional effectiveness and planning curriculum, for predicting which students are on track to be ready for college, and as a source of data to help counselors, students and parents make appropriate course placement decisions.

ACT

School Level: High

Subject/Type: College Entrance Exams

Required or Optional: Required by state

Who takes it?: Students in Grade 11 in March

What is it and why is it important?: The ACT is a standardized, curriculum-based, multiple-choice achievement test that includes four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. The ACT writing test is optional. The ACT assesses skills and knowledge that are important for success in college.

How are results used?: Results are used by high schools for advising and counseling students, by WCPSS for evaluating instructional effectiveness and planning curriculum, and by colleges and universities to make decisions regarding admissions, scholarships and loans and course placement. Results are also used as part of the state's high school accountability framework.

ACT WorkKeys

School Level: High

Subject/Type: Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Required or Optional: Required by state

Who takes it?: Students enrolled in Grade 12 who are identified as Career and Technical Education concentrators

What is it and why is it important?: The three ACT WorkKeys assessments measure mastery of Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information.

How are results used?: Results are the basis of the National Career Readiness Certificate program and connect work skills, training and skill testing for educators and employers. Results are also used as part of the state's high school accountability framework.

PSAT

School Level: High

Subject/Type: College Entrance Exams

Required or Optional: Optional

Who takes it?: Open to any student each fall

What is it and why is it important?: The PSAT is a standardized, multiple-choice test that includes three sections: critical reading, mathematics and writing. The test provides practice for the SAT and allows students the opportunity to enter National Merit scholarship programs. Individual PSAT results are helpful for advising and counseling students.

How are results used?: At the high school and division levels, PSAT results are used to evaluate instructional effectiveness and to plan curriculum, serving as an additional piece of data for student course placement. Results are also used to qualify 11th graders for National Merit Scholarships.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

School Level: High

Subject/Type: College Entrance Exams

Required or Optional: Required by many colleges for admission

Who takes it?: High school students bound for colleges

What is it and why is it important?: There are two types of SAT tests offered: the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests. The SAT is a standardized, multiple-choice test with three sections: critical reading, mathematics and writing. The SAT assesses skills students need to be successful in college.

How are results used?: Results are used by high schools for advising and counseling students, by WCPSS for evaluating instructional effectiveness and planning curriculum and by colleges and universities to make decisions regarding admissions, scholarships and loans, course placement and academic advising.

*modified from <https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/354>