



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

November 2, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Test Coordinators

FROM: Melissa Fincher, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: Guidance Letter – End of Course Tests (EOCT) Retest Administrations

The purpose of this guidance letter is to provide you information regarding the availability of retest administrations as part of the Georgia End of Course Tests (EOCT) program beginning after the winter 2011 administration. Retest administrations are being made available to further enhance the program and to provide an opportunity for students who did not meet the standard to demonstrate their proficiency. Retest opportunities will be offered in each of the ten (10) EOCTs that now comprise the program.

Students Eligible to Participate in EOCT Retest Administrations

Retest opportunities will be made available for EOCTs taken during the winter 2011 administration and beyond. Retests are **not** provided for EOCTs that were taken prior to the winter 2011 administration.

The following students are eligible to participate in EOCT retest administrations:

- Students who passed the course, but who did not meet the standard on the associated EOCT.
- Students who did not pass the course and who also did not meet the standard on the associated EOCT.

Consideration should be given to whether a retest would be in a student's best interest.

Students who passed the EOCT are not eligible to retest, regardless of whether they passed the course or not. Furthermore, the retest may not be utilized for the sole purpose of providing students the opportunity to earn a passing EOCT score that can stand in lieu of a passing Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) score (as provided for under the terms of the Secondary Assessment Transition Plan). Only students enrolled in the course the previous semester and who meet the criteria above may participate in the retest, beginning in winter 2011.

Eligible students may participate in a retest administration only once for the semester/year in which the student was enrolled in the associated course; we are unable to provide multiple retest opportunities. For example, a student who did not meet standard on the Biology EOCT in winter 2011 is eligible to participate in any of the retest windows that follow the winter 2011 administration within the 2011-2012 school year. The student is limited to one retest opportunity.

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If the student fails the Biology course and subsequently reenrolls in that course, they would be required to participate in the EOCT again as their final exam at the end of their new Biology course. Because the EOCT serves as the course's final exam, scores may not be banked.

Dates for Retest Administrations (2011 – 2012)

Retest administrations will be offered multiple times during the year. In most cases, they will occur in conjunction with the Mid-Month windows. The first retest administration window will be available in January 2012. Additionally, to provide needed flexibility for systems and schools, these windows (both retest and Mid-Month) will be two weeks in length. Retests should NOT be conducted during the spring and winter Main Administration windows. **All students who are eligible to retest should do so after having completed a targeted period of remediation designed by their local system/school.**

Students who take an EOCT in 2011 – 2012, and who are eligible for a retest, may participate in the retest windows below:

- January 2012 Retest Administration: January 17 – 27, 2012
- February 2012 Mid-Month/Retest Administration: February 6 – 17, 2012
- March 2012 Mid-Month/Retest Administration: March 5 – 16, 2012
- Summer Retest Administration: June 18 – July 20, 2012 (occurs in conjunction with the summer Main Administration; a separate retest form will be designated)
- August 2012 Mid-Month/Retest Administration: August 6 – 17, 2012
- September 2012 Mid-Month/Retest Administration: September 17 – 28, 2012

Dates for future Mid-Month/Retest windows for the 2012 – 2013 school year will be provided at a later date and communicated in future editions of the testing calendar.

Retest Logistics

All EOCT retest administrations must be administered online through Pearson Access.

Specific form numbers will be assigned for each EOCT that will identify them in Pearson Access as the designated retest form.

Systems may request paper/pencil materials for a student with a disability that prevents the student from accessing the assessment in an online format. Braille and Large Print will be available for students who require these formats. Please note that Pearson Access has the ability to deliver a large print version online.

If you have any questions regarding End of Course Test (EOCT) Retest Administrations, you may contact Tony Eitel, Director for Assessment Administration at (404) 656-0478; aeitel@doe.k12.ga.us, or Melissa Faux, Assessment Specialist at (404) 656-5975; mfaux@doe.k12.ga.us.

cc: System Superintendents
Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
Dr. Mike Buck, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Martha Reichrath, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment