

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

1960 LANDINGS BOULEVARD

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34231-3331

TELEPHONE (941) 927-9000 • FAX (941) 927-4021

December 6, 2011

Dear Parents:

In the spring of 2010, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 4 which has changed the credit and assessment requirements of high school students. The following information will affect the graduation and assessment requirements for current grade 9 and 10 students this school year. The updated requirements are identified below.

Graduation Credit Requirements for a Traditional 4 – Year High School Program:

SUBJECT	GRADE 9 (2011-2012) CREDITS REQUIRED*	GRADE 10 (2011-2012) CREDITS REQUIRED
Mathematics	4 – Must include Algebra 1 and Geometry	4 – Must include Algebra 1 and Geometry
English	4	4
Science	3 – Two must have labs: one credit must be Bio I or equivalent	3 – Two must have labs
Social Studies: World History, US History, Economics (.5)/Am Government(.5)	3	3
Performing/Fine Arts	1	1
HOPE(PE/Health)	1	1
Electives	12 – Suncoast Polytechnical 10 – Riverview, Sarasota, Booker, Venice, North Port, Pine View 8 – Oak Park	12 – Suncoast Polytechnical 10 – Riverview, Sarasota, Booker, Venice, North Port, Pine View 8 – Oak Park

* Must earn at least one credit through online learning.

NOTE: Pine View also requires 3 credits of foreign language within their electives.

Assessment Requirements:

Reading:

- Grade 9 and 10 students will participate in the FCAT-2.0 Reading Assessment which reflects revised state standards. This test is the graduation requirement for grade 10 students. If a grade 10 student does not pass the Reading FCAT, the students will continue to have several options for meeting this high school graduation requirement, including retake administrations, and the use of concordant scores.

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Mathematics and Science:

All students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors will take the State End of Course Assessments in the Spring of 2012. All middle school and grade 9 students must pass the end of course assessment to earn credit in Algebra 1. All students enrolled in Geometry or Biology will take the State End of Course Assessments in the spring of 2012. Test Results will be 30 percent of the students' grade for students who entered grade 9 in the Fall, 2011. Geometry and Biology EOC assessment results will be included as 20% of the student's course average for students who entered grade 10,11, or 12 in 2011-2012. The Geometry and Biology EOC is not counted as part of the course grade for PBD students.

Grade 12 students who did not pass the grade 10 FCAT will participate in the online retake version of FCAT-1 Mathematics. This version of the test does not include short-response or extended-response items, only multiple-choice and gridded-response items. If these students do not pass the Mathematics FCAT, the students will continue to have several options for meeting this high school graduation requirement, including retake administrations, and the use of concordant scores.

Sincerely,

Steve Cantees, Executive Director, High Schools

Cc: Lori White, Superintendent

Denise Cantalupo, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

**HIGH SCHOOL COURSES FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
And REVISED WEIGHTING OF SY 2011-2012 STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS**

The chart below outlines the weighted percentages of the midterm and finals for both high school and middle school students enrolled in the identified middle school and high school courses. These percentages apply to the 2011-2012 students enrolled in these courses.

WEIGHTING OF STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS SY 2011-2012			
EXAM	COURSES	District MIDTERM	End of Course Examination
ALGEBRA 1	Algebra 1 – 1200310 Algebra 1 Honors – 1200320 Algebra 1B – 1200380 Pre-AICE Mathematics 1 – 1209810 IB Middle Years Program – Algebra 1 Honors - 1200390	20% <i>SPHS- grade Quiz teacher - stacy</i>	0% - All Grades EOC must be passed
GEOMETRY	Geometry – 1206310 Geometry Honors – 1203620 IB Middle Years Program Geometry Honors – 1206810 Pre-AICE Mathematics 2 – 120982	10% Optional – HS	0% - Grade 7 and 8 Students 30% - Grade 9 Cohort 20% - Grade 10,11,12 Students 0% - PBD Students
BIOLOGY 1	Biology 1 – 2000310 Biology 1 Honors – 2000320 Pre-AICE Biology – 2000322 Biology Technology – 2000430 Biology 1 Pre-IB – 2000800 IB Middle Years Program – Biology Honors – 2000850 Integrated Science 3 – 2002440 Integrated Science 3 Honors - 2002450	10% Optional - HS	30% - Grade 9 Cohort 20% - Grade 10, 11,12 Students 0% - PBD Students*

- The 2011-2012 middle school and entering grade 9 students must pass the Algebra 1 end of course exam in order to earn Algebra 1 course credit. If a student entered grade 9 with Algebra 1 course credit, the student is exempt from this requirement.
- The result of the Geometry EOC assessment must be included as 30% of the student's course average for students entering grade 9 in 2011-2012. If the student entered grade 9 with Geometry course credit, the student is exempt from this requirement. The result of the Geometry EOC assessment will be included as 20% of the student's course average for students who entered grade 10, 11 or 12 in 2011-2012. The Geometry EOC is not counted as part of the course grade for Performance Based Diploma* (PBD) students. (maybe asterisk above PBD to reference the written words)
- The result of the Biology EOC assessment must be included as 30% of the student's course average for students entering grade 9 in 2011-2012. If the student entered grade 9 with Biology 1 course credit, the student is exempt from this requirement. The result of the Biology EOC assessment will be included as 20% of the student's course average for students who entered grade 10, 11 or 12 in 2011-2012. The Biology EOC is not counted as part of the course grade for PBD students.