



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Parents of current Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, Algebra IB students, middle school students who have already completed Algebra I, and entering ninth grade students who have already completed Algebra 1

FROM: Linda Thomson, Director for Instructional Services

DATE: October 8, 2010

SUBJECT: End-of-course assessment requirement

The General Requirements for High School Graduation (s. 1003.428, F.S.) were revised by Senate Bill 4.* Graduation requirement revisions will be phased in over four years and include:

- Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2010-2011 school year, Geometry or equivalent courses must be one of the four required mathematics courses, and the End-of-Course assessment requirement must be met in order for a student to earn the required credits in Algebra I and Geometry.

The Student Assessment Program for Public Schools (s. 1008.22, F.S.) was also revised by Senate Bill 4. It requires that the Algebra 1 course grade of students entering grade 9 in 2010-2011 must include performance on the Algebra 1 End-of-Course Exam with a 30% weighting. To be consistent within the school district, all students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors at the middle school or high school will take the state End-of-Course assessment and it will count 30% of the final grade in the course. In order to set normative scores for this assessment, the state is requiring students in ninth grade or below who already completed the Algebra I graduation requirement to take the test. There will be no change in the previously earned grade for these students based upon the result of their performance on the End-of-Course assessment. The district will provide schools with quarterly assessments in Algebra I to assist teachers in preparing students for the state End-of-Course assessment.

Summary:

- An End of Course Exam for Algebra 1 will be administered this year.
- The value of the exam will be 30% of the course grade.
- Students in 9th grade or middle school, who have already completed Algebra 1, will also take the end of course exam; however, it will have no impact on their previously earned credit. Instructors in the student's current mathematics classes may assign some value for the exam.
- District designed 9 week exams will be implemented to support preparation efforts for the cumulative state developed final exam.

*For additional information on Senate Bill 4, see: www.fldoe.org/GR/Bill_Summary2010/SB4.pdf.