

School Board of Brevard County

2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way • Viera, FL 32940-6601

Brian T. Binggeli, Ed.D., Superintendent



January 31, 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is currently enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. As part of legislative requirements that went into effect last year, all students who complete Algebra 1 must take an end-of course exam. This is the first year that students will earn a standardized score on the test. The results of the exam will impact students differently, depending on the year they entered 9th grade.

- **For students who are first time 9th graders this 2011-12 school year** (and subsequent years):
 - If a student is enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course any time during grades 9-12, they must take and pass the state Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) exam to earn Algebra 1 credit. The testing requirement also applies to students in grades 6-8 who are in an Algebra 1 class this year to earn high school credit. Earning Algebra 1 credit is a graduation requirement. The Algebra 1 EOC is the replacement for the Grade 10 FCAT Math test that was the graduation requirement for previous years' students.
- **For students who were first time 9th graders last year in 2010-11:**
 - If a student is enrolled in Algebra 1 or equivalent course any time during grades 9-12, they must take the Algebra 1 EOC exam, but they do not need to pass it to earn course credit. Credit is earned solely on the semester averages which are not impacted by the EOC. Instead, the EOC score will count as 30% of a final course grade that will appear in a column on the report card as a yearly course average.
- **For students who were first time 9th graders any time before the 2010-11 school year:**
 - If a student is enrolled in Algebra 1 or equivalent course any time during grades 9-12, the state requires them to take the Algebra 1 EOC, but a passing score is not required to earn course credit and it does not count toward the yearly course average.

Teachers in Brevard have been working to prepare their students for this new exam. They have been using a variety of district and state educational materials and guides to ensure that students have been taught the content being tested. You can learn more about the Algebra 1 end-of-course test on the Fact Sheet at this link: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/12a1eocfs.pdf>.

Schools will be giving the Algebra 1 EOC exam during the second week of May. For most students, it will be administered as a computer-based test. Students will have the opportunity to practice using the testing tools on the computer at school before May testing begins. Students may practice using the computer testing tools at any computer with internet access by following the "How to install ePATS" instructions at this link: www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT.

We are confident that Brevard's students will perform well on the Algebra 1 exam, just as they perform well on all state mathematics assessments. Our teachers have been well-prepared to teach students what they need to be successful. We appreciate your support as Florida makes the transition to this new kind of testing.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Van Meter, Associate Superintendent
Division of Curriculum and Instruction

Cyndi Van Meter
Associate Superintendent

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