

The Arkansas Legislature passed Act 2243 of 2005 to outline the requirements and sanctions for students who are not proficient on Benchmark and End-of-Course Exams. Act 2243 requires for elementary classroom teachers and both middle and high school teachers of English language arts, mathematics and science to develop an Academic Improvement Plan (AIP) for each student who:

- is not performing on grade level (K-2) as measured by developmentally appropriate testing;
- is not “proficient” on any part of the state’s Benchmark examinations in grades three through eight (3-8)
- is not scoring “proficient” on End-of-Course examinations in Algebra I, Geometry or Biology.

Current Requirements and Sanctions

The following sanctions apply to current students who have AIP’s:

- A student who is not proficient is required to participate in remediation activities outlined in the student’s individualized academic improvement plan (AIP).
- With regard to benchmark assessments, a student will not be promoted to the next grade until the student is deemed to have participated in an academic improvement plan or the student passes the appropriate benchmark assessment.
- With regard to end-of-course assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology, non-proficient students must participate in remediation activities outlined in the student’s individualized academic improvement plan in order to receive credit on his or her transcript for the related course.

New Requirements and Sanctions That Start Next Year

Beginning with End-of-Course (EOC) Exams in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology that are taken during the **2009-2010 school year**, different sanctions will apply to students who either **do not pass** the exam or are **not proficient** on the exam.

- A **passing** score is different than a **proficient** score on EOC Exams.
- The State will set the score required to **pass**. A passing score will be roughly the same as being at the basic level or above on the exams.

Below Basic	NOT PASS
Basic	(PASS-approximate)
Proficient	PASS
Advanced	PASS

- A **proficient** score means that the student is at the proficient or advanced level on the exams.

Below Basic	NOT PROFICIENT
Basic	NOT PROFICIENT
Proficient	PROFICIENT
Advanced	PROFICIENT

- Students who **pass** the EOC Exam in Algebra I, Geometry, or Biology but who are **not proficient** must participate in an AIP in order to receive course credit. **This group of students will be mostly those who scored at the “basic” level on the exam.**
- Students who **do not pass** the EOC Exam in Algebra I, Geometry, or Biology starting in 2009-2010 must participate in an AIP and complete remediation before taking the test again, which is required. **This group of students will be mostly those who scored at the “below basic” level on the exam.**

- Re-testing information:
 - A Student may take the EOC Exam up to three (3) additional times. If he/she passes the re-taken EOC Exam, course credit will be given.
 - If the re-taken EOC Exam has not been passed by the time a student enters his/her senior year, the student must enroll in an alternate course and pass an alternate assessment from the course in order to receive course credit.
 - If the EOC Exam is not passed during re-takes and the alternate assessment is not passed during the senior year, the student will not receive course credit and **WILL NOT graduate.**
- Current and future eleventh grade students will take an End-of-Level Literacy Exam. Although this exam doesn’t have sanctions under Act 2243, the performance of students is critical because it affects the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status of our schools. Also, all EOC Exams and the 11th grade Literacy Exam scores are part of students’ permanent records.



Act 2243 Questions and Answers:

Q—Will Act 2243 keep students from graduating from high school?

A—It is possible. Students must receive credit in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology in order to graduate. Credit cannot be granted for any of these courses until a student passes the EOC Exam for the course or takes an alternative course during the senior year **and** passes the exam for the course.

Q—How many chances does a student have to pass the EOC Exams in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology?

A—Students may retake each exam up to 3 times.

Q—What happens if a student does not pass one of the exams?

A—If a student doesn't pass, for example, the Algebra I End-of-Course Exam, after taking the exam the first time and re-taking it three times, the student will have to take a special Algebra course during his/her senior year **and** pass the final exam for the course. The same is true for Geometry and Biology.

Q—When can the EOC Exams first be taken?

A—Students will first take the EOC Exams during their freshman or sophomore year in high school.

Q—Does the same accountability under Act 2243 apply to the 11th grade Literacy Exam and EOC Algebra II?

A—At this time only EOC Exams in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology are covered by Act 2243.

Schedule of Benchmark and End-of-Course Exams for 2008-2009:

March 10-11, 2009—Grade 11 Literacy Exam

April 13-17, 2009—Augmented Benchmark Exam in Grades 3-8 Literacy and Math and Grades 5 and 7 Science

April 21-22, 2009—End-of-Course Geometry Exam

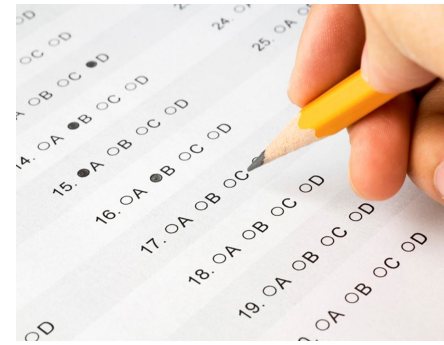
April 23-24, 2009—End-of-Course Algebra I Exam

April 28-29, 2009—End-of-Course Biology Exam

May 6, 2009—End-of-Course Algebra II Exam



Arkansas Act 2243 of 2005



Requirements and sanctions for students who do not pass and/or are not proficient on Benchmark & End-of-Course Exams