



## Early Graduation Critical Fact Sheet 08/22/17

A Publication of the Office of Teaching and Learning

### Overview/Background:

Early Graduation is a deliberate pathway for students in grades 9-11 who wish to move on when ready, receive a diploma from the district and be eligible for acceptance into Kentucky public universities and non-profit independent colleges and universities. The pathway provides a financial scholarship, known as the Early Graduation Certificate, to support this action. Students participating in the pathway must meet the requirements set forth by [704 KAR 3:305](#) including those listed below.

- Students must notify the school principal within the first 30 days of the school year in which they intend to graduate.
- Students must enter the Early Graduation pathway prior to October 1 of the year in which they intend to graduate early.
- Students must graduate in three years or less. Students exceeding three years do not qualify for the incentives identified with Early Graduation.
- Students must take and achieve ACT benchmarks as designated by the Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE).
- Students must take and score proficient on all required End-of-Course Assessments (EOCs).

### Critical Points:

#### Counseling

**The following topics should be discussed and considered by students, families and school personnel prior to declaring an intent to participate in the Early Graduation Pathway:**

- Social/emotional maturity
- Future goals and aspirations
- Student's desire to take multiple Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit courses in high school
- Financial readiness to support college tuition
- Student's ability to complete the requirements for Early Graduation within three years or less
- Participation in local events traditionally determined by grade classification (i.e. prom attendance, valedictorian, Governor's Scholar programs, etc.)
- Meeting Early Graduation requirements does not ensure acceptance to a two or four year post-secondary institution. Students, along with families and counselors, are encouraged to have preliminary talks, BEFORE ENTERING EARLY GRADUATION with the admissions counselors at the institutions of their choice to determine all pre-admission requirements for acceptance.

## End-of-Course Assessments

As a result of the End-of-Course (EOC) requirements specified in [704 KAR 3:305](#), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will provide EOCs for those students participating in the Early Graduation Pathway.

End-of Course assessments are not the same as our End-of-Course field tests which are currently under development. The End-of-Course field tests offered during the 2017-2018 school year will not serve as the assessments to demonstrate proficiency for the Early Graduation Pathway.

## Ordering End-of-Course Assessments

- Using an adhoc filter within Infinite Campus, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) will be asked to submit an order report to the KDE identifying students on the Early Graduation Pathway. *An adhoc filter is currently being developed and instructions for running the filter will be published soon.*
- The report will include:
  - Student's name
  - SSID
  - Intended year of graduation
  - EOC exam name
  - Testing window
- The report will be submitted to the KDE, who will process the order and schedule a shipping date within the ten (10) days prior to testing.

## Testing and Shipping

- The testing windows will be:
  - Test Window 1: December 4, 2017-December 15, 2017, return shipping deadline December 19, 2017
  - Test Window 2: February 26, 2018-March 9, 2018, return shipping deadline March 13, 2017
  - Test Window 3: April 23, 2018-May 4, 2018, return deadline May 8, 2017
- All materials are to be kept secure in locked storage. The materials are copyrighted and should not be reproduced in any way.
- Districts will return all testing materials including test booklets and answer documents to the KDE on or before the established return deadline.

## Scoring

- Scores will be provided to districts in a limited format.
- The KDE will provide score reports with names and scale scores listed.
- The limited format will allow for Early Graduation determinations to be made.

## Point of Contact:

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