

Assessment Brief



Public Schools of North Carolina • State Board of Education • Howard Lee, Chairman • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed. D., State Superintendent

Understanding the North Carolina End-of-Course Field Tests of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and English I

December 1, 2005 • Vol. 11, No. 1

This brief is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Education Accountability Services Web site, www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/shared/abriefs/.

This publication and the information contained within must not be used for personal or financial gain. North Carolina school system/school officials and teachers, parents, and students may download and duplicate this publication for instructional and educational purposes only. Others may not duplicate this publication without prior written permission from the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

Introduction

At the high school level, students are required to take end-of-course tests in the following subjects: Algebra I; Algebra II; Biology; Chemistry; Civics and Economics; English I; Geometry; Physical Science; Physics; and U. S. History.

Field Test Purposes

For the 2005-06 school year EOC field tests of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and English I will be field tested. Results from field testing provide valuable information regarding the following:

1. The validity of the tests;
2. The data required to pre-equate test forms;
3. The reliability of the tests;
4. The time to be allotted to administer the tests;
5. The length of the tests;
6. The identification of weak or defective items;
7. The spread of difficulty of the test questions;
8. The appropriateness of the directions for the tests;
9. The detection of item bias;
10. The establishment of the academic achievement standards cut scores as well as which students are likely to be successful in demonstrating mastery versus those who probably will not; and
11. The identification of an appropriate mechanism for scoring and reporting the results of the tests.

Successful administration of the field tests is essential to the continuing development, psychometric, and otherwise technical soundness of the North Carolina

End-of-Course Tests of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and English I.

Eligible Students

All students enrolled in Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and English I at selected schools, who are not to participate in the North Carolina Checklist of Academic Standards (NCCLAS), will participate in the EOC field tests. All eligible students are to participate in the North Carolina EOC field tests in one of the following two ways:

- *Standard test administration;*
- *Standard test administration with accommodations:* On a case-by-case basis and where appropriate documentation exists, students identified as limited English proficient (LEP) and students with disabilities may receive testing accommodations. The need for accommodations must be documented in the student's appropriate LEP documentation, current Individualized Education Program (IEP), or Section 504 plan. The accommodations must be used routinely during the student's instructional program and similar classroom assessments;

Students Record Actual Working Time

All students who participate in the end-of-course field tests are required to record their actual working time in the TIME box. The TIME box must be completed accurately because this data will be used to estimate the total test administration time for each of the end-of-course tests. The test administrator is to follow specific procedures to facilitate this recording process.

It is important to remember that all students are to be given sufficient time to complete the test administration. Test administrators must consult with school test

coordinators for the local procedure to follow in providing students with additional time to complete the end-of-course field test.

Field Test and Item Review

The Field Test Item Review must be completed under secure conditions in a group setting (i.e., three or more school personnel) by appropriate local personnel. The purpose of the item review is to provide NCDPI with teacher input about the appropriateness and clarity of the items. For the EOC field tests, only (1) Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, or English I teachers, (2) special education teachers, and (3) English as a second language (ESL) teachers who work with students in the field tested courses are to complete the field test item review. This review should take approximately one hour to complete.

Estimated Test Administration Time

It is anticipated that most students will complete the field test between 135 and 162 minutes. However, the estimated administration time for the field test is 150 minutes. All students should be allowed ample opportunity to complete the field test.

Testing Time

The following table provides the suggested testing time for the end-of-course field test:

Time	Testing Activity
8 minutes	Assemble students, distribute answer sheets, and provide general instructions.
60 minutes	Administer multiple-choice field test.
2 minutes	Stretch break
60 minutes	Administer multiple-choice field test.
2 minutes	Stretch break
30 minutes (estimated)	Complete administration of multiple-choice field test
162 minutes	Estimated Total Testing Time

Note: Additional time may be required at the end of the testing period to collect test materials, check answer sheets, and complete coding.

Number of Test Items by End-of-Course Field Test

The following table provides the approximate number of test items located on each end-of-course field test:

End-of-Course Test	Number of Items
English I	70-80
Algebra I	60-80
Algebra II	60-80
Geometry	60-80

In compliance with federal laws, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs,

*employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to: Dr. Elsie C. Leak, Associate Superintendent
Office of Curriculum and School Reform Services
6307 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-6307
Telephone (919) 807-3761; Fax (919) 807-3767*