

Options for Meeting the Competency Requirements North Carolina Testing Program

The following options are available for students to meet the North Carolina competency requirements.

1. Scores from the North Carolina grade 8 end-of-grade tests (EOG) may be used to determine whether the student has met the competency requirements.
2. If a student has not met the competency standard using the grade 8 end-of-grade tests (EOG), the cutoff scores for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 1994–95 through 2000–01 using the competency test(s) are the following:
 - Reading or Verbal: at or above a scale score of 156
 - Mathematics: at or above a scale score of 165

The cutoff scores for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 2001–02 using the competency test(s) are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a scale score of 156
- Mathematics: at or above a scale score of 256

The cutoff scores for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 2002–03 using the competency test(s) are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a scale score of 156
- Mathematics: at or above a scale score of 261

The cutoff scores for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 2003–04 and beyond using the competency test(s) are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a scale score of 254
- Mathematics: at or above a scale score of 261

In cases where these scores are not available, the following may be used.

- Seventh-grade EOG scores in reading and/or mathematics may be used to meet the competency requirement. *Acceptable scores are the same as those for grade 8.*
- The North Carolina Algebra I End-of-Course test may be used to meet the mathematics competency requirement. Students must achieve a cutoff score that is equivalent to Achievement Level III or above.
- The North Carolina English I End-of-Course test may be used to meet the reading or verbal competency requirement. Students must achieve a cutoff score that is equivalent to Achievement Level III or above.

3. PSAT or SAT scores may be used for meeting the competency requirements.

The cutoff scores for the PSAT and SAT are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a verbal score of 48 on the PSAT or 480 on the SAT
- Mathematics: at or above a mathematics score of 48 on the PSAT or 480 on the SAT

4. Scores from the following ACT tests and College Board tests may be used for meeting the competency requirements.

The cutoff scores for the ACT are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a verbal score of 20 on either English or reading
- Mathematics: at or above a mathematics score of 20 on mathematics/quantitative

The cutoff scores for the ACT PLAN are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a verbal score of 20 on verbal
- Mathematics: at or above a mathematics score of 20 on mathematics

The cutoff scores for the ACT COMPASS are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a verbal score of 83 on verbal
- Mathematics: at or above a mathematics score of 45 on mathematics

The cutoff scores for the College Board's ACCUPLACER are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above a verbal score of 87 on verbal
- Mathematics: at or above a mathematics score of 82 on mathematics

Students will be required to make use of existing scores, or the LEAs may elect to incur the costs to administer these tests. The NCDPI will not incur any costs associated with the administration of non-state tests to be used for this purpose.

5. Scores from the following four standardized, nationally-normed tests, normed on a sample representative of the public school population in 1995 or later, may be used to meet the competency requirements. Scores from the eighth grade or higher editions of the test may be used.
 - The California Achievement Test, fifth edition (CAT5)
 - Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)
 - Terra Nova
 - Stanford Achievement Test 9 (SAT9)

The cutoff scores for these tests are the following:

- Reading or Verbal: at or above the 50th national percentile
- Mathematics: at or above the 50th national percentile

Scores at the 50th percentile from other nationally standardized tests may be considered as an alternate means for demonstrating minimum competency upon official written request by the LEA superintendent to the director of the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services.

Students who use nationally standardized tests to meet the competency requirements shall be permitted to use a combination of measures. For example, a student may use the EOG at grade 8 to meet the reading competency requirement and the CAT5 to meet the mathematics competency requirement.

Students will be required to make use of existing scores, or the LEAs may elect to incur the cost to administer the nationally standardized tests. The NCDPI will not incur any costs associated with the administration of nationally standardized tests to be used for this purpose.