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Understanding Policy IHA: Grading Systems and Weighting for End-of- Course Exams

Due to the challenges presented in supporting both virtual and in-person learning as a result of COVID-19, the State Board of Education (SBOE) recently proposed to reduce the Georgia Milestones End-of-Course (EOC) percentage weight. Initially, the SBOE recommended all EOC exams count 10% of a student's final grade, but after extensive public comment, the Board posted a proposed amendment to this rule. If approved, the State's EOC weight shall count .01%, at minimum, of a student's final grade in the course. The proposed amendment must be made available by law for public comment for 30 days prior to a vote of the State Board of Education. At this time, the minimum percentage weight mandated by the state remains at 20% until the SBOE adopts a new weight. The State Board of Education is scheduled to meet on December 21st to vote on the amendment. In an effort to provide grading consistency while the state makes their decision, Camden County High School's steering committee met to discuss these proposed state changes.

Camden County High School and EOC Weighting

Camden County High School has a decision-making steering committee comprised of parents, high school teachers, and community leaders called the High Schools That Work Steering Committee (HSTWSC). This committee is tasked with taking recommendations and determining regulations for the high school. The HSTWSC is a voting committee and all decisions are made and finalized by the majority vote of the HSTWSC voting members. If the decision is related to a Board policy, the committee's proposed changes are sent to the district's BOE for review and approval.

Historically, Camden County School's End-of-Course and final exams counted 30% of the student's grade, which was 10% higher than the state's mandated 20%. In an effort to continue the academic rigor in all courses, the HSTWSC proposed that CCHS End-of-Course (EOC) and final exams count 10% higher than the minimal EOC grade percentage determined by the State Board of Education. During the November 2020 Camden County Schools Board of Education meeting, the Board voted to approve changes to Policy IHA: Grading Systems. The policy was updated, in part, due to changes signed into law by Governor Kemp as part of SB 367 which affected the number of courses requiring an End-of-Course (EOC) exam, and in part due to the SBOE

Board Members:

Jane Brown, Chairman • Jimmy Coffel, Vice-Chairman
Jason Chance • Jonathon Blount • Mark Giddens

proposed changes to be determined. The policy was proposed at the October Camden Board of Education meeting and changes were approved after the proposed policy was made available for public comment for 30 days on the Camden County Schools website.

Summary of Information and Impact of CCHS EOC Exam Weighting

If the State Board of Education votes to amend the EOC weighting to count 0.01% at minimum, Camden County High School's EOC exams will count 10% + 0.01% as proposed by the HSTWSC and approved by the Board.

If the State Board of Education votes to amend the EOC weighting to count 10%, as previously discussed by the Board, Camden County High School's EOC exams will count 20% as proposed by the HSTWSC and approved by the Board.

The State Board of Education may vote on the amendment on December 21st or may delay the vote until a later meeting. While we anticipate the vote to happen on December 21st, we are prepared to change the weight in PowerSchool gradebook as soon as the EOC weight is decided by the State Board.

Going forward from the date of approval by the Camden County Board of Education on November 11, 2020, Policy IHA: Grading Systems sets the CCHS EOC weighting as 10% above the state's weighted percentage to be determined by the State Board of Education. This percentage also applies to final exams in non-EOC courses at Camden County High School.

Brief Overview of Changes

- ✓ All state mandated **End-of-Course exams** will count 10% above the state weighted percentage towards the final course grade.
- ✓ Locally developed **final exams** will count 10% above the state weighted percentage for End-of-Course exams in all non-EOC courses.
- ✓ The number of courses requiring EOC exams was reduced from 8 to 4. EOC exams will be administered in the following courses:
 - Coordinate Algebra
 - Biology
 - U.S. History
 - American Literature and Composition
- ✓ One exception exists with middle school students taking high school Physical Science. The EOC Physical Science will be administered to middle school students enrolled in high school Physical Science.