



SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
FROM: Matthew Ferguson *CMF*
DATE: November 20, 2020
SUBJECT: Grading for End-of-Course Examination

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) communicated to district superintendents in a [memorandum](#) dated October 27, 2020 that the State Superintendent would use the waiver authority granted her under Act 135 to waive the 20 percent requirement for all EOCEP assessments taken in the 2020–21 school year (SY) (fall 2020, spring 2021, and summer 2021). Absent approval of a federal waiver, districts must still administer all EOCEP assessments in SY 2020-21.

As districts must now decide whether student EOCEP results will be included in the calculation of final course grades, the Education Oversight Committee would remind districts that the results for English, Algebra and Biology EOCEPs administered in SY2020-21 will be reported on future school report cards and used to calculate future school report card ratings.

English, Algebra, and Biology EOCEP assessments are lagging indicators included on school report cards in the graduation year of that specific 9GR cohort. Thus, most of the scores from English and Algebra EOCEPs administered during the SY 2020-21 will be reported and used to calculate ratings on school report cards for SY 2023-24. Scores for Biology EOCEP administered this school year will not be reported and used to calculate ratings until the school report cards for SY 21-22.

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) recently recommended the waiver of school ratings for SY 2020-21, but this recommendation was limited to SY 2020-21. For your reference, the following are the recommendations related to school accountability in 2020-21 forwarded to the General Assembly by the EOC.

1. EOC recommends a commitment to administering state assessments to all students in school year (SY) 2020-21 to provide statewide and district level data.
2. The EOC recommends requesting from the South Carolina Department of Education a plan to administer assessments to a sample of students in SY 2020-21 to provide state level data by subgroup in the event it is not possible to administer state assessments to all students.
3. The EOC recommends waiving school ratings for SY 2020-21.
4. The EOC recommends the publication of school report cards for SY 20-21 by October 2021 to include all available data.

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