

# Student Progression

# PLAN



2022-2023



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[www.pascoschools.org](http://www.pascoschools.org)

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## I – FLORIDA STATUTE



## Section I Florida Statute



Florida Statute [1008.25](#) requires each district school board to establish a comprehensive program for student progression. Each district school board must annually report to the parent of each student the progress of the student toward achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in English Language Arts, science, mathematics, and social studies. The district school board must report to the parent the student's results on each statewide assessment test. The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and other relevant information. Progress reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format adopted by the district school board.

Florida law also prohibits that a student be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.

Each district school board must annually publish on the district website and in the local newspaper the following information on the prior school year:

1. The provisions of this section relating to public school student progression and the district school board's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion.
2. By grade, the number and percentage of all students in grades 3 through 10 performing at Levels 1 and 2 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.
3. By grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in kindergarten through grade 10.
4. Information on the total number of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause as specified in statute.
5. Any revisions to Pasco County School's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

## II – PREFACE



# Section II Preface



The Pasco County School's Student Progression Plan (SPP) is designed to support the District's vision of providing a world-class education that will prepare our students for college, career, and life. This vision places a focus on standards based, high impact instruction that is rooted in high expectations for all students.

Pasco County Schools is dedicated to the total and continuous development of each student. The professional staff of the school system is responsible for the development of administrative procedures to ensure the placement of individual students in the programs and in the level best suited to meet the individual student's academic needs, with consideration given to the student's social, emotional, and physical development.

Pasco County Schools will prescribe and adopt standards and policies to provide each student the opportunity to receive a complete education program, including language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, world languages and the arts as defined in the standards recognized by the Florida Department of Education.

The standards will emphasize integration and reinforcement of reading, writing, and mathematics skills across all subjects including career awareness, career exploration, and career and technical education.

Decisions regarding student promotion in Pasco County Schools are based on student achievement.

Pasco County Schools is committed to the implementation of a Problem Solving/Response to Instruction-Intervention (MTSS) framework to align efforts to improve educational outcomes and meet the academic/behavioral needs of all students. Pasco County Schools will provide high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs and use data over time to make important educational decisions – including decisions regarding promotion, acceleration, retention, and remediation.

The measures that are employed to implement the plan clearly reflect the multi-cultural composition of the community. A student must be provided placement that is appropriate for the student's level of English language proficiency. The acquisition of English language skills is the highest instructional priority for speakers of other languages. Instruction is presented in a mainstream setting through content areas and each student's cultural background is recognized and treated with integrity.

Pasco County Schools shall implement an early warning system to identify students who need additional support to improve academic performance and stay engaged in school.

As part of the SPP, procedures are established to achieve parent understanding, cooperation, and acceptance of the student's promotion or placement within district and state regulations.

### III – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES K-5) POLICIES



## Section III Elementary School



## A. Elementary Curriculum and Instruction

### 1. Introduction

The elementary section of the Pasco County School's Student Progression Plan (SPP) is designed to support the District's vision of providing a world-class education that will prepare our students for college, career, and life. This vision places a focus on standards based, high impact instruction that is rooted in high expectations for all students.

The SPP is designed to ensure that all students meet high academic standards through a standards-driven curriculum, rigorous and relevant instruction, and instruction that is focused on critical thinking and problem-solving. The effectiveness of this instruction is evaluated through the District's comprehensive system for student progression. The program analyzes assessment data through a universal screening and continuous progress monitoring system to identify students that need more intensive instructional support to accelerate growth. These instructional interventions are implemented and the student responses to them are continuously monitored to determine the level of effectiveness. Areas addressed within the plan are focused on preparing students to achieve success in college, career, and life.

Note: Updates from legislation may occur after the publication of this document. Though every effort is made to address the impact of State Statute and Federal mandates on Pasco County Schools' policies, it is possible that answers may not be found in this document. These omissions are not to be construed as Pasco County Schools granting permission for issues not covered in the Student Progression Plan. For clarification on these types of issues, please contact the Director of the Office for Leading and Learning.

### 2. Requirements for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The curriculum, assessment, and instruction system of Pasco County Schools is aligned with the Florida state education goals, performance standards as defined by the Florida Department of Education. Each school will offer courses of study and instruction that reflect the appropriate Standards in K–12 language arts, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, fine and performing arts, physical education, health, and world languages. Instruction will address the skills and competencies that a student must master in order to graduate from high school [[F.S. 1001.03](#), and [1003.4282](#)].

Schools must offer high impact instruction in reading in a dedicated block of time of at least a 90-minutes' duration utilizing district-adopted core and supplemental materials. In addition to, or as an extension of the 90-minute reading block, the classroom teacher, special education teacher, or reading resource teacher will provide immediate intensive tiered supports and interventions to children as determined by progress monitoring and other forms of assessment.

Students are required to participate in 150 minutes each week of physical education in grades K-5 ([F.S. 1003.455](#)). The physical education requirement shall be waived for a student in grades K-5 who meets one of the following criteria:

- a. The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course. This may apply to all students at a lowest 300 school site.
- b. The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:
  - 1. The student is enrolled in another course from among those offered as options by the school district; or
  - 2. The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Pasco County Schools shall provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day.

Each school will offer instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs) which complies with the Consent Decree in the League of United Latin American Citizens et al. v. the State Board of Education, 1990 and with the District ELL Plan, which is both board approved by Pasco County Schools and the Florida State Department of Education. No student will be denied

appropriate use of his/her primary language [[F.S. 1002.20\(10\)](#) and [1003.56\(1\)\(3\)\(5\)](#)]. Each student may participate in statewide assessment tests at designated grade levels, as required by F.S. [1008.25](#).

### 3. Student Rights for Instruction

All public education courses shall be available to all students without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status; however, this is not intended to eliminate the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities ([F.S. 1002.20](#)). English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services are designed to meet the English language proficiency, academic, and social needs of ELLs as defined in the District ELL Plan - A Plan to Assure Comprehensible Instruction for ELLs.

Pursuant to Florida statute, students have the right to access, and parents have the right to enroll their child in a virtual education instruction program. Any student who believes that he/she has been denied participation in or access to an educational program or activity, or has otherwise been discriminated against, may file a grievance according to the procedure established in Board Policy.

### 4. Placement

#### a. Kindergarten/First Year Primary Legal Requirements\*

Students must be five years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year ([F.S. 1003.21](#)). Parents/Guardians must have adequate documentation of the following:

- a. Birth certificate or other proof of birthdate
- b. Three proofs of residency such as deed or lease agreement and current utility bill (i.e. water, electric, etc.) and supporting documentation (driver's license, Florida ID card, voter's registration, or passport)
- c. HRS Certificate of Immunization
- d. Health examination completed within the last twelve months
- e. Affidavit of Residence Form for families that do not have a permanent residence at time of enrollment, when applicable

A student who turns five after September 1 may not receive a Florida Department of Education waiver to enter Kindergarten early. There is no Florida statute or State board of education rule that includes any provision to waive the age requirement for kindergarten enrollment.

A student who transfers from an out-of-state school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to Florida public schools, may be admitted if he or she meets the age requirements for the public schools in the state from which he is transferring, and if the transfer of the student's academic credit is acceptable under the rules of the school board. If a student is transferring from an **out-of-state public school, or any nonpublic school**, the parents/guardians must provide the following documentation prior to enrollment:

- a. Official documentation that the parent(s)/guardian(s) was a legal resident of the state in which the child was previously enrolled in school.
- b. An official letter, transcript, or report card from the last school of enrollment which shows a record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement for the student.
- c. Evidence of immunization.
- d. Health examination completed within the last twelve months.

#### State Mandated Kindergarten Screener

All school districts are required to administer the kindergarten readiness screener as identified by the State of Florida to each kindergarten student in the district school system during the first 30 school days of the school year. The statewide kindergarten screening assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten based upon the performance standards adopted by the Department of Education under [F.S. 1002.67\(1\)](#) and [1002.69](#), for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. Reading instruction/interventions will be provided based upon the screening results and diagnostic assessment.

**b. First Grade/Second Year Primary Legal Requirements ([F.S. 1003.21](#))\***

Prior to placement in grade 1, students must:

1. be six years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year and have been enrolled in a public school  
or
2. be six years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year and able to provide evidence of a report card reflective of the student's satisfactory completion of kindergarten in another state or private school, or letter by the principal or director of the school certifying the student has been enrolled in a public or private school.

**c. Transfers from Out-Of-State or Out-of-Country Schools**

A student who transfers from an out-of-state school and who does not meet regular age requirements for admission to Florida public schools, may be admitted if he or she meets the age requirements for the public schools in the state from which he is transferring, and if the transfer of the student's academic credit is acceptable under the rules of the school board. If a student is transferring from an **out-of-state public school, or any nonpublic school**, the parents/guardians must provide the following documentation prior to enrollment:

- a. Official documentation that the parent(s)/guardian(s) was a legal resident of the state in which the child was previously enrolled in school.
- b. An official letter, transcript, or report card from the last school of enrollment which shows record of attendance, academic information, and grade placement for the student.
- c. Evidence of immunization.
- d. Health examination completed within the last twelve months.

When a student transfers from another district, state, or country and there is evidence of multiple retentions and/or a drastic discrepancy between chronological age and grade level, the school should evaluate the appropriateness of the current grade placement. **Placement in the same grade as that recommended by the former school is not automatic.** A four (4) to six (6) week screening period will be allowed from the time of enrollment, to assist with placement adjustments. Serious consideration is to be given to screening results. The school may review all student educational records, confer with previous school district/administration, confer with the parents/guardians, and use appropriate subject area tests when available to determine the appropriate educational placement.

Based on district educational guidelines related to promotion and retention, a principal may place a student in an appropriate grade level or educational setting.

**d. Assistance to Transitioning Students from Military Families ([F.S. 1003.05\(03\)](#))**

Dependent children of active-duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such programs even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned, the parent or guardian of the student must assume the responsibility for transporting the student to that school.

**e. Transfers from Home Education Programs K-5 and Private Schools**

When a student who meets legal age requirements for enrollment in a Florida public school transfers from a Home Education program or private school, the principal is responsible for appropriate placement. **Placement in the same grade as that recommended by the former school is not automatic.** Initial placement should be based on a review of academic progress and achievement documented by the former school or program. Parents of former Home Education students are responsible for a portfolio of records and materials for review. The portfolio is to include a log of educational activities, titles or readings, and samples of any writing, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student ([F.S. 1002.41\(b\)\(c\)](#)). The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and shall be made available for inspection by the district (superintendent and staff) upon 15 days' written notice.

A four (4) to six (6) week screening period will be allowed from the time of enrollment, to assist with placement adjustments. Serious consideration is to be given to screening results. A placement decision may be made in consultation with the teacher(s), other appropriate staff, and parents/guardians. Until screening is completed, students who are five (5) or six (6) years old are temporarily placed according to the legal age requirements.

For Kindergarten – Fifth Grade: Screening activities will identify students’ instructional needs and will assist schools in making grade level placements. Attention will be paid to:

1. academic performance
2. concept development
3. social emotional behavior
4. health and physical development
5. home language survey

**f. Transfers from Florida Public K-8 Virtual School Programs**

Students transferring from any district virtual school program as authorized by the State of Florida are to be placed in a manner similar to public school transfers from other Florida districts. Full time enrollment for elementary Pasco eSchool needs to occur during the published enrollment period ([see District website](#)). Shared enrollment for students in Pasco eSchool may occur in alignment with the district drop/add timelines. Students may also take additional courses through Pasco eSchool beyond the regular school day with administrative approval.

**g. Classroom Placement Multiple Birth Siblings ([F.S. 1003.06](#))**

Multiple birth siblings who are assigned to the same grade level and school may be placed in the same classroom or separate classrooms if a request is made by the parents in writing within five (5) days before the first day of each school year or five (5) days after the first day the student enrolls in the school if they transfer during the school year.

[F. S. 1003.06\(6\)](#) specifies that the provisions do not apply to the right or obligations of students with disabilities under [F.S. 1003.57](#) or under the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), regarding the individual placement decisions of the school district, or the removal of students pursuant to disciplinary policies.

After consulting with the teacher(s) involved at the end of the first grading period, the principal may review the siblings’ placement. If it is determined that their placement is disruptive to the school, the principal may consider a more appropriate setting for the siblings.

A parent may appeal the principal’s classroom placement of multiple birth siblings to the principal, in writing, within 5 days. The appeal will be forwarded to grade-level Assistant Superintendent for a final decision. During an appeal, the multiple birth siblings shall remain in the classroom chosen by the parent.

**5. Student Progression: Promotion, Promotion with Instructional Support, and Retention ([F.S. 1008.25](#))**

Student progression in grades K-5 is determined by a variety of indicators, as defined by state standards and district expectations, which are aligned with the standards as defined by the Florida Department of Education. These expectations include specific levels of student performance on locally determined assessments, including universal screenings and ongoing progress monitoring, and results of statewide assessments, as defined by the Commissioner of Education [[F.S. 1008.25\(5\)](#)]. Promotion from one level to the next is based upon each student’s progress toward the accomplishment of high standards that are both challenging and achievable. The evaluation of each student’s progress will be based upon the student’s classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and other relevant information. The final decision as to grade placement is the responsibility of the principal. **The only exceptions are the Mandatory Grade 3 Retention and skipping a grade.**

## **a. Promotion**

### **1. State and District Identified Levels of Performance**

The student's growth toward the accomplishment of state and district identified minimum levels of performance in English language arts, science, mathematics, and social studies shall be the primary consideration in promotion/retention decisions. Student progression decisions consider the effectiveness of core instruction and the student's response to evidence-based instruction/interventions implemented with fidelity.

### **2. Students Supported with Intensive Instructional Support**

For students previously identified as not meeting district/state determined minimum levels of performance, assessment data will be used to identify a student's level of performance and rate of progress. Intensive interventions will be developed and the student's response to the interventions will be monitored to accelerate the student's rate of progress toward standards.

### **3. Grade Level Acceleration**

Students performing above grade level in one or more content areas should have their instructional program tailored to meet their academic needs. If data supports student mastery in all content areas and differentiation is not adequate to meet the needs of the student, grade acceleration may be recommended. When a principal recommends placement of a student into a higher grade, which results in the student skipping a grade, prior approval must be granted from the Superintendent's staff.

### **4. English Language Learner (ELL)**

ELLs will be graded on the general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements; however, the English language arts (ELA), content, and special area teachers will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations to provide comprehensible instruction at the learner's level of English acquisition and give the student the opportunity to learn content, even with limited English proficiency.

English Language Learners will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades if English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have not been implemented as required by the Florida Consent Decree. Additionally, ELLs will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades based solely on lack of English language proficiency. An ELL committee is required before retaining an ELL.

In order to provide comprehensible instruction and give ELLs access to content and the opportunity to learn, the ELA, content area, and special area teachers will provide differentiation strategies, assignment modifications, and instructional and assessment accommodations in accordance with the Florida Consent Decree.

Promotion or retention decisions may not be made for an individual ELL based on English language proficiency or solely on a score on any single assessment instrument, whether such assessment instrument is part of the statewide assessment program or of a particular district's formal assessment process.

### **5. Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Pursuing Florida Standard High School Diploma**

A decision to promote ESE students pursuing current state standards will be based on the requirements as specified in the Student Progression Plan for basic education students with accommodations as identified in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

### **6. Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Pursuing Florida Standards Access Points**

The decision to promote ESE students pursuing Florida Standards Access Points will be based on classroom-based assessments, achievement measured by an alternate assessment, and progress in social development.

## **b. Promotion with Instructional Support**

All students should be afforded every opportunity to meet achievement expectations. When a student is not meeting district/state identified minimum levels of performance, assessment data will be used to identify the student's level of performance and rate of progress. Intensive interventions will be developed and the student's response to the intervention will be monitored to accelerate the student's rate of progress toward standards. Any student whose overall performance suggests he/she would benefit from being officially placed in the next grade level at the end of the year without meeting district/state identified minimum levels of performance in English language arts (reading and writing) mathematics or will be promoted with instructional support. All students promoted with instructional support will receive a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP).

### **1. No Social Promotion**

No student can be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion [[F.S. 1008.25\(6\)](#)].

### **2. Instructional Support**

All students should be afforded every opportunity to meet achievement expectations. Students not meeting district/state identified minimum levels of performance must receive intensive instructional support to accelerate the student's rate of progress toward standards.

The areas of academic need and intervention strategies are identified through a problem solving/response to instruction/intervention process. Multiple tiers of support are implemented to support student academic performance. Students needing intensive instructional support will be matched to strategic and intensive instruction/interventions based on screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments.

The parent of any K-3 student who exhibits a substantial reading deficiency shall be immediately notified of the student's deficiency pursuant to [s. 1008.25\(5\)](#) and shall be consulted in the development of a plan, as described in [s. 1008.25\(4\)\(b\)](#).

#### **a. Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) [[F.S. 1008.25\(4\)\(b\)](#)]**

Students with a substantial deficiency in ELA (reading and writing) or mathematics, as determined by a triangulation of data, including performance on statewide assessments as defined by the Commissioner of Education, must be covered by a federally required student plan, such as an individual education plan (IEP) or an individualized progress monitoring plan (PMP), or both. Students in need of Tier 3 intensive interventions and remediation will receive a PMP in the designated area (ELA or math). The PMP shall be developed in consultation with a parent/guardian and data will be collected and monitored throughout the year, and progress will be reported to parents monthly.

English language learners (ELLs) should be afforded the opportunity to acquire basic English language proficiency before being included in the schoolwide PMP process. Typically, ELLs who have been in the ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) program less than 2 years should not be included in the PMP process. An ELL plan should be developed and implemented that includes ESOL strategies and accommodations. ELLs who have been in the ESOL program more than 2 years should be included in the PMP process in the same way as non-ELL students. An ELL committee is not required when assigning a PMP to an ELL student

The Individual Education Plan (IEP) replaces the PMP for most Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students since the IEP included the required elements of the PMP. The IEP must address the intensive instructional and support services in the identified area(s) of deficiency.

Refer to the Pasco County MTSS Guidebook for further details.

**b. Reading Requirements**

The K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading plan provides instructional guidance in reading. The K-12 Reading Plan includes a curriculum decision making tree, to be used during the problem-solving process when supporting students who are not meeting standards in reading. Students will initially be screened for determining placement and making curriculum decisions. For students not meeting baseline criteria, diagnostic assessments will be used to develop interventions matched to student need and their progress will be continually monitored throughout the year.

**c. Resource Allocation**

The allocation of remedial and supplemental instructional resources for students shall occur in the following priority:

1. students who are deficient in reading by the end of grade 3; or
2. students who fail to meet performance levels required for promotion consistent with the District's plan for student progression.

**d. End-of-Year Decisions for Students Not Meeting Standards**

Any student who does not meet the district identified minimum levels of performance in English Language Arts (reading and writing) mathematics, or who does not meet the identified minimum levels of performance on statewide assessments must be provided remediation. Students not meeting grade level expectations receive increasingly intensive instruction/intervention services implemented to support student academic performance. Students are matched to the instruction/intervention tier based on screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments.

At the conclusion of the school year, student performance is compared to the District identified minimum levels of performance in English Language Arts (reading and writing) mathematics, and to determine whether or not they meet expectations. Determinations are made for placement for the following year. Based on performance, there are three options for student placement:

Option 1: Students that master grade level standards through acceleration before the beginning of the next school year will be promoted.

Option 2: Students that have not mastered grade level standards through acceleration before the beginning of the next school year will be promoted with increased progress monitoring and continued intensive instructional interventions; or,

Option 3: If retention is deemed appropriate, then the student must receive instruction that is different from the previous year's program and considers the student's learning style and adjustment made to the plan based on student needs.

Parents/guardians of each student will be notified in writing annually of the progress of the student toward achieving the state and district identified minimum levels of performance in English Language Arts, mathematics, and the student's results on each statewide assessment test. Student progression decisions consider the student's response to evidence-based instruction/interventions implemented with fidelity. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. The parents/guardians of students participating in the Virtual Instruction Program may be notified using electronic reporting.

**e. Placements Not Addressed in the Student Progression Plan (SPP)**

The Superintendent's staff must review any student placement that is not addressed or supported in the SPP.

### **c. Retention\***

Any decision to retain should be based on the factors below and must be discussed with parents/guardians. The following rules and guidelines have been established to assist school personnel in making retention decisions at the elementary level as indicated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Guidelines.

The final decision as to grade placement is the responsibility of the principal. The only exception is the Mandatory Grade 3 Retention.

#### **1. Academic Performance**

The student's growth toward meeting standards in English Language Arts (reading and writing), mathematics, shall be the primary consideration in promotion/retention decisions. Retention decisions must be based on more than a single test score. There should be a preponderance of evidence that has been collected over time.

#### **2. Additional Factors to Consider Before Retaining a Student (Grades K, 1, 2, 4, or 5)**

Listed below are factors that need to be considered before making the decision to retain a student in grades K, 1, 2, 4, or 5. Carefully read the language outlined in **Previous Retention(s)** prior to making the decision to retain a student in grades K, 1 or 2. After careful consideration by a school review committee, the decision to promote a student may be based on the following factors:

##### **a. Exceptional Student Education (ESE)**

The student's IEP goals should be considered. Exceptional education students would benefit from additional individualized instructional strategies in lieu of retention.

##### **b. English Language Learners**

Retention is not recommended for ELLs who have been in U.S. schools and/or the ESOL program less than two years and have not had the opportunity to develop basic social and academic English language skills. Any retention decision for an ELL requires review by the ESOL Program office prior to holding an ELL committee meeting. For this type of retention there must be evidence that indicates that ESOL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have been implemented as required by the Florida Consent Decree and that there has been no progress in reading, writing and mathematics in English.

No student may be retained based solely on his/her level of English language proficiency or solely on a score on any single assessment instrument, whether such assessment instrument is part of the statewide assessment program or of a particular district's formal assessment process. A formal retention recommendation regarding an English Language Learner (ELL) must be made through the action of an ELL (formerly known as LEP) committee. A member from the ESOL Program (ESOL Curriculum Specialist or ESOL ITC) must be included in the ELL Committee meeting when deciding retention for any ESOL student. It shall be the ELL committee's responsibility to ascertain that the comprehensive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications and accommodations have been consistently applied during classroom instruction and assessment in all courses.

English Language Learners will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades if ESOL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have not been implemented and documented in lesson plans as required by the Florida Consent Decree. Additionally, ELLs will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades based solely on lack of English language proficiency. In order to provide comprehensible instruction and give ELLs access to content and the opportunity to learn, the ELA, content area, and special area teachers will provide differentiation strategies, assignment modifications, and instructional and assessment accommodations in accordance with the Florida Consent Decree.

##### **c. Previous Retention(s)**

Under most circumstances, a student may be retained in elementary school (grades K- 5) only once. However, in the case of mandatory grade 3 retention, a student may be retained in elementary school a second time if, after

receiving the most intense (increased time, narrowed focus, reduced group size) instruction and intervention based upon individual student need, provided in addition to and aligned with Tiers 1 & 2 academic instruction and supports, the student continues to perform below the district identified minimum levels of performance and there is no justification for promotion with instructional support to the next grade.

In the event a principal makes a recommendation to retain a student more than one time in grades K-5, if after remediation, the student continues to perform below the district identified minimum levels of performance and there is no justification for promotion with instructional support to the next grade, it requires approval by the Superintendent's staff. For a student who has been retained two or more years, an appropriate alternative placement should be considered [\[F.S. 1008.25\(2\)\(c\)\]](#).

**d. Fourth Grade Promotion [\[F.S. 1008.25\]](#):**

To be promoted to grade 4, a student must score a Level 2 or higher on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment required under s. 1008.22, F.S., for grade 3. If a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of grade 3, as demonstrated by scoring Level 2 or higher on the grade 3 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment required under s. 1008.22, F.S., the student must be retained.

**1. Grade 3 Good Cause Exemptions [\[F.S. 1008.25\(6\)\]](#):**

Students may be exempt from mandatory retention based only on the following good cause exemptions:

- a. limited English proficient students (ELLs) who have had less than two years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program based on the initial date of entry into a school in the United States;
- b. students with disabilities, whose individual educational plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of section [1008.21, F.S.](#), Alternate Assessment (FSAA) administered for students instructed in Florida Standards Access Points;
- c. students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading or English Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of Education;
- d. students who demonstrate standards mastery through a student portfolio, equivalent to Level 2 performance on the statewide standardized assessment;
- e. students with disabilities who have an IEP/504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive instruction in reading or ELA for two or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in grades K, 1, 2, or 3;
- f. students who have received intensive reading intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in K, 1, 2, or 3 for a total of two years. A student may not be retained more than once in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**2. STUDENT PORTFOLIOS FOR PROMOTION TO GRADE 4**

To promote a student using a student portfolio as a good cause exemption, there must be evidence that demonstrates the student's mastery of the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards is equal to at least a Level 2 performance on the grade three statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment under s. 1008.22, F.S. Such evidence shall be an organized collection of the student's mastery of the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards that are assessed by the grade three statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment under s. 1008.22, F.S. A school must immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first. The student portfolio must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be selected by the student's teacher;
- b. Be an accurate picture of the student's ability and only include student work that has been independently produced in the classroom;
- c. Include evidence that the benchmarks assessed by the grade three statewide standardized English Language Arts assessment under s. 1008.22, F.S., have been met. Evidence is to include grade level passages that are approximately fifty (50) percent literary text and fifty (50) percent informational text, and that are between 100-700 words with an average of 500 words. Such evidence could include chapter or unit tests from the

district's/school's adopted core reading curriculum or teacher-prepared assessments that are aligned with the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards.

d. Be an organized collection of evidence of the student's mastery of the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards that are assessed by the grade three statewide standardized English Language Arts assessment under s. 1008.22, F.S. For each benchmark, there must be at least eight (8) items assessed and the student must demonstrate seventy (70) percent mastery for all items assessed per benchmark and,

e. Be signed by the teacher and the principal as an accurate assessment of the required reading skills.

### **3. Successful Progression for Students Promoted with Good Cause**

Fourth grade students who received a good cause exemption from retention must be provided explicit, systematic and multisensory reading instruction and intervention strategies through an altered instructional day with intensive reading instruction and intervention that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so promoted. (Section 1008.25(4), F.S., and Section 1008.25(6)(b), F.S.)

### **4. Mid-Year Promotion**

Students retained in grade 3 may qualify for early promotion to grade 4 during the first nine weeks of the school year by demonstrating that they are able to read on grade level as evidenced by showing mastery of the SSS/FS in reading equal to at least a Level 2 performance on the state ELA assessment through portfolio documentation or a district provided alternative standardized assessment.

### **5. Successful Progression for Retained Third Grade Students [\[F.S. 1008.25\]](#)**

Students retained under the provisions of mandatory [grade 3 retention] must be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must include:

a. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by Pasco County Schools.

b. Provide third grade students who are retained under the provisions of mandatory grade 3 retention with intensive instructional supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency; including participation in the school district's summer reading camp, and a minimum of 90 minutes of daily uninterrupted scientifically researched- based reading instruction which includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension as well as other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Integration of science and social studies content within the 90-minute block
2. Small group instruction
3. Reduced teacher-student ratios
4. More frequent progress monitoring
5. Transition classes containing students in grades 3 and 4
6. Extended school day, week or year
7. Tutoring or mentoring

c. Provide written notification to the parent of any student who is retained under the provision (mandatory grade 3 retention) that his or her child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reason(s) the child is not eligible for a good cause exemption. The notification must include a description of proposed interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency and annually report to parents whose student is provided intensive intervention the response to the intervention. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language.

d. Provide students who are retained under the provisions (mandatory grade 3 retention) with a highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation under [s. 1012.34](#), and, beginning July 1, 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

e. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the following:

1. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and opportunities to master the current state standards in other core subject areas through content- rich texts.
2. Small group instruction;
3. Have a reduced teacher-student ratio;
4. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics, and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year.
5. Share a Read-at-Home Plan

f. When deemed appropriate by the principal and the intervention team, the option of acceleration in other content areas may be provided to a student who has been retained in grade 3 and has received intensive instructional services but is still not ready for promotion as determined by the District. Interventions shall specifically be designed to produce learning gains sufficient to meet grade 4 proficiency standards while continuing to remediate the areas of reading deficiency.

## **6. Extended School Year Services**

Students are eligible for Extended School Year according to criteria specified in the Extended School Year Services General Guidelines.

## **7. Part-Time Students**

### **a. Full-Time Requirement**

The District does not authorize students to be enrolled on a part-time basis. Any exception must be justified on the basis of medical or personal hardship and must be approved by the Board.

### **b. Home Education Participation**

Home Education students participating in an extracurricular activity may attend the specific course required for participation in the activity.

## **8. Pasco eSchool [F.S. 1002.45 and 1002.415]**

Online courses through Pasco eSchool will be offered to students.

### **a. Virtual Instruction [F.S. 1002.20]**

The District shall provide eligible students within its boundaries the option of participating in a virtual instruction program. The program shall provide virtual instruction to full-time students enrolled in full-time virtual courses in kindergarten through grade 12, or part-time virtual courses in grades 6-12.

#### **1. Full-Time Enrollment with with Pasco eSchool**

Parents/Families selecting full-time with virtual option for their child must meet the following requirements:

- a. Register during Pasco eSchool Open Enrollment as indicated on the District calendar;
- b. Designate a learning coach for the student. The learning coach will partner with both the traditional classroom teacher and virtual instructor to facilitate the learning experience of the student within the home setting;
- c. Attend a Learning Coach Training session at the beginning of the school year;
- d. Assume responsibility for transportation to Pasco eSchool campus for required live lessons, Tier2/Tier3 supports, and district/statewide assessments;

- e. Adhere to the attendance procedures as defined by statute (1002.45(6)(a)) and established by the virtual school administrators. It is the responsibility of the student and the learning coach to adhere to those procedures. Failure to do so will result in the student's removal from the full-time virtual option.

## **2. Shared Enrollment with Pasco eSchool**

An eligible student may enroll in one or more online courses through the district virtual instruction program for a portion of their scheduled day. Parents would need to inquire with the school administrator to determine appropriate placement, eligibility, and educational learning plan. The final decision as to grade placement is the responsibility of the Principal of the brick-and-mortar setting. A joint meeting between school administrators (physical school and Pasco eSchool), a parent/guardian and other personnel is REQUIRED prior to enrollment.

If student is enrolled in online course(s), the following process must be adhered to:

- a. Designate a learning coach (generally the parent) for the student. The learning coach will partner with both the traditional classroom teacher and virtual instructor to facilitate the learning experience of the student within the school setting, including completing online orientation;
- b. Parent/Family assumes responsibility for the daily transportation to and/or from the traditional school setting for scheduled classes;
- c. Parent/Family assumes responsibility for student during the times not scheduled for class on the traditional school campus;
- d. Shared students will participate in district and state assessments at their primary school of enrollment;
- e. Adhere to the attendance procedures established by the school administrators, as directed by state statute 1002.45(6)(a). It is the responsibility of the student and the learning coach to adhere to those procedures. Failure to do so will result in the student's removal from the virtual option.

Please note: Pasco eSchool does not have curriculum to address Access Points.

## **9. Home Education**

A Home Education program is the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirement of F.S. [1002.01](#), [1002.41](#), [1003.01\(13\)](#), and [1003.21\(1\)](#).

Home Education programs must meet the following registration and compliance requirements ([F.S. 1002.41](#)):

- a. Parents must register Home Education students with the district school superintendent of the county in which the parents reside within 30 days of the establishment of the Home Education program;
- b. Parents must provide written notice of termination to Pasco County Schools within 30 days of the termination of a Home Education program;
- c. Parents must maintain a portfolio of records, educational activities and materials. Portfolios are to be preserved for two (2) years and shall be made available for the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent's designee, upon 15 days' written notice;
- d. Parents shall provide for annual educational evaluations documenting that the student's educational progress is at a level commensurate with his or her ability;
- e. A Home Education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.

Home education students must follow all the rules set forth in Florida Statute [1002.41](#), even if the student is participating in virtual curriculum.

## B. Elementary Grading

### 1. Reporting Student Progress

Students and parents will be advised of the grading criteria employed in the school and in each course at the beginning of the grading period.

#### a. Explanation for Reporting Primary (K-2) Student Progress

All academic areas will be graded E = Excellent, S = Satisfactory, N = Needs Assistance, U = Well Below Expectation or NA = Not Assessed at this Time. Social growth/behavior, work habits and Motor Development will be graded S = Successful, N = Needs Assistance, U = Well Below Expectation or NA = Not Assessed at this Time. Student progress is based on individual growth, rather than comparison with others. Grading descriptors outlined in *The Elementary Reporting Guide* will be followed when determining grades.

Each student's report card will also communicate the determination of whether the student is meeting yearly standards based on assessments. This determination is indicated for reading and mathematics for grades 1-2. For kindergarten, the determination is indicated for reading only.

Students in Exceptional Education programs pursuing current state standards and Florida Standards Access Points at the independent level will receive a standard report card as indicated above.

Students following the Florida Standards Access Points at the supported or participatory levels will receive a district- designed alternate report card with an E, S, N, U for K-2.

#### b. Explanation for Reporting Intermediate (Grades 3-5) Student Progress

Communications/literature, mathematics, science/health, and social studies will be graded A = Well Above Expectation, B = Above Expectation, C = Adequate Progress, D = Below Expectation, U = Well Below Expectation or NA = Not Assessed at this Time. Art, music, and physical education will be graded E = Excellent, S = Satisfactory, N = Needs Assistance, U = Well Below Expectation or NA = Not Assessed at this Time. Social growth/behavior and work habits will be graded S = Satisfactory, N = Needs Assistance, U = Well Below Expectation or NA = Not Assessed at this Time. Student progress is based on individual growth, rather than comparison with others.

Each student's report card will also communicate the determination of whether the student is meeting yearly standards based on assessments. This determination is indicated for reading and mathematics.

Students in Exceptional Education programs pursuing current state standards and Florida Standards Access Points at the independent level will receive a standard report card as indicated above.

Students following the Florida Standards Access Points at the supported or participatory levels will receive a district- designed alternate report card with an E, S, N, U for 3-5.

#### c. Explanation for Reporting Pasco eSchool Student Progress

Students enrolled in the Pasco eSchool will have their progress reported electronically and parents can access that information by establishing their own parent/guardian accounts. Grades and pace will be reported for each course within the learning management and student information system as students' complete semesters or segments. Due to the nature of the virtual program, grades will not be reported in the area of social growth, behavior, and work habits.

**d. Recognition of Student Progress**

Student progress is based on individual growth rather than comparison with others; therefore, schools are encouraged to utilize appropriate options for recognizing students who have demonstrated progress.

**e. Determining Final Grades**

The process of grading begins at the onset of planning and delivery of instruction. Educators determine what students should know, understand, and do, develop plans, and select instructional strategies and assessment components aligned with state standards. Educators determine the various weights of tasks, projects and assessments during the learning process to accurately evaluate student progress and provide meaningful communication to students and parents. District assessments that assess progress toward meeting standards will be utilized.

Students and parents will be advised of the grading criteria employed in the school and in each course at the beginning of the grading period. Grades will be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria (Grades 1-12).

The final report card for a school year shall contain a statement indicating end-of-year status of performance or nonperformance at grade level, acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and promotion or non-promotion. For the purpose of automated reporting, reading and writing will constitute Integrated Language Arts. The final grade will be of the student's overall performance in these areas.

**f. Report Card Grades and Attendance Reporting [\[F.S. 1003.33\]](#)**

Each district school board shall establish and publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and high school students. These report cards must clearly depict and grade:

1. The student's academic performance in each class or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria, and must include the student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level.
2. The student's conduct and behavior.
3. The student's attendance, including absences and tardiness.
4. A student's final report card for a school year shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level, acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and promotion or non-promotion.

District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt students from academic performance requirements based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement.

**g. Report Card Distribution Schedule**

Grades are reported to parents/students' grades K-12, via progress reports and report cards, four (4) to eight (8) times per school year. Virtual courses have semester-based reporting periods.

**h. Supplemental Reporting Instruments**

With the approval of the Superintendent (or his designee), schools may develop additional or supplementary reporting instruments that may be used in conjunction with the standard report card. A school may request a waiver from the Superintendent's Staff to use a portfolio/conference reporting system in lieu of the standard report card. A school may also request a waiver for the use of the kindergarten report card.

**i. Grades in Conduct**

Grades in conduct are to reflect the student's progress independent of academic achievement. Standards for grading in these areas are to be explained to the students. Conduct implies the degree to which a student relates to others, to himself, and to the environment in socially acceptable ways.

**j. Grade Changes**

The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decision regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified of all such changes.

**k. Parent Notification**

Parents or guardians must be notified in writing at any time during a reporting period when it is apparent that the student is doing unsatisfactory work in any subject or may need retention in his/her grade level. Notification may include progress reports as well as letters, documented phone calls, emails, and parent/guardian conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. Such notification shall also apply to social growth/behavior and work habits.

No student shall receive an unsatisfactory grade if parents/guardians have not been notified. The opportunity for a conference with the teacher or principal must be provided to the parent/guardian of any student who may be retained. School personnel should make every effort to gain parent understanding and cooperation regarding a student's grade placement; the final decision as to grade placement, in grades other than grade 3, is the responsibility of the principal. Decisions made by the principal must be in accordance with all policies listed within the Student Progression Plan.

**l. District Level Assessments [F.S. 1008.22](#)**

A student assessment that measures mastery of the content is required. For any course whose content is not aligned with a statewide or other standardized assessment, the student will be expected to take a district level assessment(s). The results of this district level assessment will be used as additional evidence for a K-5 student's grade or progression. District assessments that assess progress toward meeting standards will be utilized.

**m. Cambridge Primary**

The Cambridge Primary exams are administered by Cambridge International. Students enrolled in Cambridge Primary courses in 5<sup>th</sup> grade may be required to take Checkpoint exams when applicable to the content area and school.

## **C. Elementary Attendance**

### **1. No Academic Exceptions Based on Attendance [F.S. 1003.33(2)]**

Schools shall not exempt students from academic performance requirements, such as final exams based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirements.

### **2. Assignment Within District**

The Superintendent or designee may assign or reassign students on a case-by-case basis to schools or programs other than that designated by the attendance area (zoned school) when such an exception is necessary to promote the health, safety or welfare of the student, other students or staff.

### **3. Part-Time Enrollment**

Charter schools, private schools, and other non-public full-time schools must have a formal agreement with the school district for students to attend a district school on a part-time basis. This agreement must include a description of services to be provided by the School District and must be approved by the School District.

Home Education students may apply to attend their home zoned school on a part-time basis for access to courses required for participation in extra-curricular activities, with admission consideration restricted to the student's zoned school or by following School Board policy to attend outside the zoned attendance area. The home school is the primary provider of the student's education. The part-time student is not eligible for district recognition programs, graduation ceremonies, class ranking, honor roll, or to attend classes at multiple brick and mortar campuses.

### **4. Pasco eSchool**

Attendance procedures will be established by the school administrator. It is the responsibility of the student and the learning coach to adhere to those procedures. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the virtual setting.

\*Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for unexcused/excused absence, truancy and make-up work policies.

## **D. Elementary Exceptional Student Education**

### **1. Promotion for Exceptional Students in Grades Pre-K-5**

Promotion from one level to the next is based upon each student's progress toward the accomplishment of high standards that are both challenging and achievable. Time requirements for each subject area may be adjusted for an exceptional education student in order to meet the objectives of the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). A decision to promote ESE students pursuing a standard high school diploma will be based on the requirements as specified in the Student Progression Plan (SPP) for general education students with accommodations as identified in the IEP.

#### **a. Services for Infants and Toddlers (Birth through Age 2)**

Children found eligible for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing program, birth through two years of age, receive services provided by Pasco County Schools as decided by the IFSP.

#### **b. Placement and Promotion of Pre-Kindergarten Exceptional Students**

Pre-Kindergarten students who will be age five (5) on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the following school year will be considered for placement in kindergarten.

The IEP team will determine the appropriate educational setting. The IEP team does not have the option to recommend retention in Pre-K. If the team feels there are extenuating circumstances that warrant maintaining a student in pre-kindergarten for an additional year, prior approval must be obtained from the Student Support Programs and Services Supervisor. The additional year in preschool will be for purposes of continued development. Parents must receive written notification of the impact of the decision including the possibility of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention and decreased time for exceptional student education transition services post-graduation.

Pre-K ESE services are only available to pre-school aged students. Students will be placed in kindergarten services based on age as defined in the enrollment section. If parents, choose not to enroll their child in kindergarten ESE services are not available.

#### **c. Promotion of Exceptional Students in Grades K-5**

##### **1. State Standards**

A decision to promote ESE students pursuing current state standards will be based on the requirements as specified in the Student Progression Plan (SPP) for general education students with accommodations as identified in the IEP.

##### **2. Florida Standards Access Points**

The decision to promote ESE students following the Florida Standards Access Points will be based on classroom-based assessments, achievement measured by an alternate assessment, and progress in social development.

##### **3. ELL Services for Students with Disabilities**

ESE students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) must be served with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications, and accommodations, as well as ESE modifications and accommodations listed in the IEP. It shall not be construed that services in ESOL and ESE are mutually exclusive. However, students may be evaluated following district procedures to determine if the student's exceptionality renders services afforded ELLs to be ineffective or to run counter to the goals of the IEP in such cases, the ELL committee must meet to make determinations as per the current District ELL Plan. When appropriate students are entitled to both ESOL and ESE services.

#### **d. Reporting Student Progress**

##### **1. Report Cards**

Students in Exceptional Education programs pursuing current state standards and Florida Standards Access Points at the independent level will receive a standard report card. Students pursuing the Florida Standards Access Points will receive the designation of N/A for meeting standards in reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

Students pursuing Florida Standards Access Points at the supported or participatory levels will receive a district- designed alternate report card with an E, S, N, U for K-5.

Students at the pre-kindergarten level receive narrative report cards at the end of each semester, which reports the students' progress in developmental areas.

## **2. Reporting Progress**

ESE students' progress toward annual IEP goals must be reported to parents/guardians quarterly.

Progress towards standards will be determined and reported on progress reports according to procedures for general education students as outlined in Section III B Grading of the SPP.

Parents/Guardians must be notified, in writing at any time during a reporting period, it is apparent the student may fail or is doing unsatisfactory work in any course or grade assignment. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory grade if parents/guardians have not been notified. Notification may include progress reports as well as letters, documented phone calls, emails, the electronic grade book, and/or parent conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. Such notification shall also apply to conduct. The opportunity for a conference with the teacher or principal must be provided to the parent/guardian of any student who may be retained.

### **e. Parent/Guardian Notification of Diploma Options**

Status with regard to mastery of current state standards or the Florida Standards Access Points and should be discussed with parents/guardians at each IEP conference. There should be an explanation of the type of standards a student is attempting to master beginning in kindergarten. In order for a student to participate in instruction in the Florida Standards Access Points the parent must provide informed consent. The IEP team must complete the *Florida Department of Education Parental Consent Form/Prior Written Notice Instruction in the State Standards Access Points Curriculum and Florida Alternate Assessment Administration Form*.

## IV. MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8) POLICIES



### Section IV Middle School



## **A. Middle School Curriculum and Instruction**

### **1. Introduction**

The middle school section of the Student Progression Plan (SPP) for students in grades 6 through 8 is designed to support the District's vision of providing a world-class education that will prepare our students for college, career, and life. This vision places a focus on standards based, high impact instruction that is rooted in high expectations for all students.

The SPP is designed to ensure that all students meet high academic standards through a standards-driven curriculum, rigorous and relevant instruction, and instruction that is focused on critical thinking and problem solving. The effectiveness of this instruction is evaluated through the District's comprehensive system for student progression. The program analyzes assessment data through a universal screening and continuous progress monitoring system to identify students that need more intensive instructional support in order to accelerate growth. These instructional interventions are implemented and the student responses to them are continuously monitored to determine the level of effectiveness. Areas addressed within the plan are focused on preparing students to achieve success in college, career, and life.

Note: Updates from legislation may occur after the publication of this document. Though every effort is made to address the impact of State Statute and Federal mandates on Pasco County Schools' policies, it is possible that answers may not be found in this document. These omissions are not to be construed as Pasco County Schools granting permission for issues not covered in the Student Progression Plan. For clarification on these types of issues, please contact the Director of the Office for Leading and Learning.

### **2. Requirements for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

The curriculum, instruction, and assessment system of Pasco County Schools is aligned with the Florida State Education Goals and Performance Standards and standards as defined by the Florida Department of Education. Each school will offer courses of study and instruction that reflect the appropriate Florida Standards in K–12 language arts, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, fine and performing arts, physical education, health, and world languages. Instruction will address the skills and competencies that a student must master in order to graduate from high school [[F.S. 1001.03](#), and [1003.4282](#)].

#### **a. Instruction**

Instruction will be offered in each middle school that complies with Pasco's Vision: All Students Achieving Success in College, Career, and Life. Such instruction will be based on the District-adopted Success Plan and the current state standards, where appropriate.

Instruction will be offered in each school that meets the requirements of the Florida state statutes which includes a career interest inventory and a broad orientation to career clusters to assist students in focusing on academic and career goals and post-secondary planning.

#### **b. Statewide Assessment**

Each student must participate in statewide assessment tests at designated grade levels, as required [1008.22\(3\)](#).

#### **c. English Language Learners (ELLs)**

In accordance with State Board Education rules [6A-6.0904](#) and [6A-6.0908](#) and the District's English Language Learners Plan (ELL Plan), ELLs shall have equal access to appropriate instructional programming, and to programs other than ESOL. ELL students must be given equal access to the general curriculum, Advanced Placement, honor courses, and any special programs regardless of their English language proficiency. The general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements will be the basis of their curriculum; however, the teacher will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations in order to provide comprehensible instruction at the learner's level of English acquisition. Instructional strategies and accommodations are required to ensure equal opportunity to master the general curriculum, content vocabulary, grade-level standards, and course content.

An ELL is afforded the appropriate use of his/her primary language in accordance with State Board of Education Rule [6A-6.0908.3](#) and Florida Statutes [1002.20\(10\)](#) and [1003.56](#). No student shall be denied appropriate use of his/her primary language at school. ELLs in grades 6-8 shall be placed into academic classes based on age/grade appropriateness. Any exception of placement of a student that is not age/grade appropriate requires review by the ESOL Program office prior to a required school-based ELL committee meeting. No student will be denied appropriate use of his/her primary language [[F.S. 1002.20\(10\)](#) and [1003.56](#)].

### **3. Public School Student Progression, Remedial Instruction, and Reporting Requirements (F.S. 1008.25)**

Student progression in the middle grades is determined by a variety of indicators, as defined by state and district expectations. These expectations include specific levels of performance in reading, writing, science and mathematics for each level on locally determined assessments, including universal screenings and ongoing progress monitoring and results of statewide assessments.

#### **a. Promotion (F. S. 1008.25)**

Promotion from one level to the next is based upon each student's mastery of the standards in K-12 language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The evaluation of each student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and other relevant information and data sources. In no case shall this decision be based on age or on the basis of social promotion.

The student must have a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) developed that identifies the instructional and support services that will be provided. Reference the Pasco County MTSS Guidebook.

#### **b. Promotion Requirements**

Middle school students are required to successfully complete three years of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Additionally, students are required to successfully complete a civics course and career planning course in order to be promoted to grade 9 ([F.S. 1003.4156](#)). When a student fails a required course, recovery opportunities and resources will be available for remediation and demonstration of academic competency. Schools will have several options to provide recovery opportunities for students through direct instruction, self-paced remediation, and/or assessment. Recovery is considered complete when a student successfully demonstrates the course standards. The recovery process is a focused opportunity for demonstration of the essential skills and knowledge that are needed to successfully transition to the next level.

In all cases requiring promotion recovery, formal written parental notification is required with a copy to be filed in the student's cumulative record. Formal notification will be in a language or mode of communication understandable by non-English speaking parents. (Parent notification of recovery would occur through report card and student schedule.)

Students are not retained in middle school until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, even if they do not pass all subjects/courses in the lower levels. Students who do not meet requirements for promotion to high school by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade are then retained until all requirements are met.

#### **c. Acceleration Options [F.S. 1002.3105]**

Acceleration options are available within each school. Acceleration options include, but are not limited to, mid-year, whole grade, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction, and Credit Acceleration Program (CAP). Contact the school for information related to student eligibility requirements.

The assignment of a student to a higher grade which results in the student's skipping a grade or part of a grade should be based on evidence that the placement in the advanced grade level is most appropriate. This decision should consider factors including academic skill levels, intellectual abilities, social maturity, conduct, attendance, motivation, and recommendation from student's teacher in core courses, and student's school counselor. The school principal (principals when two schools are involved) has the responsibility for making such an assignment. In all cases, a parent/student conference and consent are required along with approval from the Superintendent's staff.

School personnel should utilize available resources to achieve parent understanding and cooperation regarding a student's grade placement. The final decision as to grade placement is made by the principal(s).

### **1. Middle School Students Enrolled in High School Courses\***

The information in the high school section of the SPP applies to middle school students when they are enrolled in high school coursework.

#### **a. High School GPA Calculation**

A student below grade 9 who is enrolled in a course listed in the State Course Code Directory grades 9-12 section, shall receive a high school GPA calculation, regardless of final grade, and will receive high school graduation credit upon successful completion of the course. A course designated in the Course Code Directory as grade 9 through 12, which is taken below grade 9, may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements or Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

#### **b. State-wide Assessments**

Students who enroll in Algebra I, Geometry, or Biology I, **shall not be required** to be double tested with both the EOC assessment and the corresponding subject and grade level statewide, standardized assessment (if applicable).

#### **c. End-Of-Course (EOC) Assessment for Algebra 1**

A student completing Algebra 1, or an equivalent course must take the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment and the EOC assessment will count as 30% of the student's final year long grade. High school credit will be awarded if the student passes the course (regardless of the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment score). The course will count as one (1) of the three (3) mathematics courses required for promotion to high school and the course grade will be used as part of the high school grade point average (GPA). The student must pass the Algebra EOC Assessment, or earn a comparative score, in order to earn a high school Standard Diploma. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC or by earning a comparative score. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

#### **d. End-Of-Course (EOC) Assessment for Geometry, or Biology\***

A student completing Geometry (or an equivalent course), or Biology (or an equivalent course), (or an equivalent course) must take the corresponding EOC Assessment and the EOC assessment will count as 30% of the student's final year long grade. If the student passes the course (regardless of the EOC Assessment score), the course will count as one (1) of the three (3) mathematics courses (Geometry), (1) of the three (3) science courses (Biology), and/or (1) of the three (3) social courses (U.S. History) required for promotion to high school. The student will earn high school course credit and the grade will be calculated as part of the high school grade point average (GPA).

\*Students enrolled in Geometry, or Biology during the 19-20 school year were not required to take the corresponding EOC. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

\*For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or do not have a score from the EOC exam, it is only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

## **2. Acceleration Waiver Process**

Parents have the right to request an advanced/accelerated course regardless of the recommended schedule. A waiver has been developed to document the school's recommendation and the parent request. A performance contract may be required. For further information, contact the school.

## **3. Promotion/Retention of Middle School Students**

### **a. Promotion with Instructional Support**

Students not meeting grade level expectations based on recent statewide assessments or teacher determination receive increasingly intense instruction/ intervention services to support student academic performance. Students will receive a PMP that identifies instruction/intervention support through a problem-solving/response to instruction/intervention process.

Since it is the intent that the next grade offers intensive intervention, the student must have a PMP developed that addresses those intensive interventions and remediation strategies. If a student is retained, it must be within an intensive program that is different from the previous year's program and takes into account the student's learning style.

In all cases, formal written parental notification is required with a copy to be filed in the student's cumulative record. Formal notification will be in a language or mode of communication understandable by non-English speaking parents.

### **b. Remediation**

All students should be afforded every opportunity to meet achievement expectations. Students not meeting district/state identified minimum levels of performance must receive intensive instructional support in order to accelerate the students' rate of progress toward standards.

The areas of academic need and intervention strategies are identified through a problem-solving/response to instruction/intervention process. Multiple tiers of increasing instructional and instruction/intervention services are implemented to support student academic performance. Students needing remediation or intensive instructional support will be matched to strategic and intensive instruction/interventions based on screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments.

### **1. Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) ([F.S. 1008.25](#))**

Any student who does not meet the district identified minimum levels of performance and/or who does not meet the identified minimum levels of performance on statewide assessments, must be provided remediation. Students not meeting expectations will receive a PMP that identifies instruction/intervention support through a problem solving process. The PMP shall be developed in consultation with a parent/guardian and student progress will be monitored.

ELLs should be afforded the opportunity to acquire basic English language proficiency before inclusion in the school-wide PMP process. Typically, ELLs who have been in the ESOL program less than 2 years should not be included in the PMP process. ELLs who have been in the ESOL program more than 2

years should be included in the process just as a non-ELL student. An ELL committee is not required when assigning a PMP to an ELL. No student may be retained based solely on his/her level of English language proficiency [\[F.S.1008.25 \(6\)\(a\)\]](#).

The Individual Educational Plan IEP replaces the PMP for all Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students since the IEP includes the required elements of the PMP. The IEP must address intensive instructional and support services in the identified area(s) of deficiency. In the event the IEP does not address the area of deficiency, the IEP team needs to determine if the IEP should be revised or a separate PMP should be developed.

Refer to the Pasco County MTSS Guidebook for further details.

## **2. End-of-Year Decisions for Students Not Meeting Standards**

Any student who does not meet the District-identified minimum levels of performance and/or who does not meet the identified minimum levels of performance on statewide assessments must be provided remediation. Students not meeting expectations receive increasingly intense instruction/intervention services implemented to support student academic performance. Students are matched to the instruction/intervention tier based on screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments. At the conclusion of the school year, students' performance compared to the District identified minimum levels of performance is used to determine whether or not they meet expectations.

Parents/guardians of each student will be notified in writing annually of the progress of the student toward achieving the state and district identified minimum levels of performance in reading, writing, mathematic, and science and the student's results on each statewide assessment test. Student progression decisions consider the student's response to evidence-based instruction/interventions implemented with fidelity. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. The parents/guardians of students participating in the Virtual Instruction Program may be notified using electronic reporting.

### **c. Reading Requirements [\[F.S. 1003.4156\(5\)\(b\)\]](#)**

ELLs may be enrolled in the Developmental Language Arts through ESOL elective course in place of the yearlong reading course. See [FLDOE memorandum K-12: 2005-82 – Enrollment of Limited Proficient Students in Required Intensive Reading Courses](#).

### **d. Retention Guidelines**

The following rules and guidelines have been established to assist school personnel in making retention decisions at the middle school level.

The student's growth toward the accomplishment of district-identified minimum levels of performance in reading, writing, mathematics, and science shall be a primary consideration in promotion/retention decisions. Retention decisions must be based on more than a single test score.

Decisions about whether it is in the best interest of a child to repeat a grade solely for academic reasons must be determined at the local level by the school's principal, following state statute, after a careful review of the student's academic record, with input from the parents, the student, teachers and school leaders. Only academic performance, or provisions in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), can be considered when discussing a child repeating a grade.

Listed below are factors that need to be considered before making a decision to retain a student. Any decision to retain should be based on a pattern of these factors and should be discussed with parents/guardians. After consideration by a review committee, the following factors may be reasons for not retaining a student:

**1. Exceptional Student Education (ESE):** Exceptional education students may not benefit from retention as much as they would benefit from additional individualized instructional strategies and progressing with peers in their graduation cohort.

**2. English Language Learners**

Retention is not recommended for ELLs who have been in US schools and/or the ESOL program less than two years and have not had the opportunity to develop basic social and academic English language skills. Any retention decision for an ELL requires review by the ESOL Program office prior to holding an ELL committee meeting. For this type of retention there must be evidence that indicates that ESOL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have been implemented as required by the Florida Consent Decree and that there has been no progress in reading, writing and mathematics in English. No student may be retained based solely on his/her level of English language proficiency.

A member from the ESOL Program (ESOL Curriculum Specialist or ESOL ITC) must be included in the ELL Committee meeting when deciding retention for any ESOL student. It shall be the ELL committee's responsibility to ascertain that the comprehensive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications and accommodations have been consistently applied during classroom instruction and assessment in all courses. A formal retention recommendation is sent to the principal regarding an English Language Learner (ELL) through the action of the ELL committee.

It shall be the ELL committee's responsibility to ascertain that the comprehensive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications and accommodations have been consistently applied during classroom instruction and assessment in all courses.

Retention decisions may not be made for an individual ELL based on English language proficiency or solely on a score on any single assessment instrument, whether such assessment instrument is part of the statewide assessment program or of a particular district's formal assessment process.

English Language Learners will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades if ESOL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have not been implemented and documented in lesson plans as required by the Florida Consent Decree. Additionally, ELLs will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades based solely on lack of English language proficiency. In order to provide comprehensible instruction and give ELLs access to content and the opportunity to learn, the ELA, content area, and elective teachers will provide differentiation strategies, assignment modifications, and instructional and assessment accommodations in accordance with the Florida Consent Decree. \*\*Move this paragraph to grading section of SPP.

**3. Previous Retentions:** The Superintendent's staff must grant approval when a principal wishes to retain a student more than one time in grades 6-8. For a student who has been retained two or more years, an appropriate alternative placement should be considered [\[F.S. 1008.25\(2\)\(c\)\]](#).

**4. Age:** No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age.

Parents must be provided written notification if their child is being retained.

Parents/guardians of each student will be notified in writing annually of the progress of the student toward achieving the District identified minimum levels of performance and the student's results on each statewide assessment test. Evaluation of each student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, District and State Assessments and other relevant information.

Parents must be notified when, during a reporting period, it is apparent that the student is failing or in danger of failing. In addition to report cards and progress reports, notifications may include letters, documented telephone calls, emails, and/or parent conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory conduct grade if parents have not been notified. The opportunity for a conference with the teacher or principal must be provided to the parent of any student who may be retained.

Students may be retained in middle school (8<sup>th</sup> grade) until they meet the state mandated middle school promotion requirements.

#### **4. Support Programs**

##### **a. Student Support and Assistance Plan Program (SSAP)**

The SSAP program is based on the underlying concept that all children can learn and that environments conducive to learning can stimulate student success. By allowing students to be in regular classrooms, the students are able to experience true team interaction. Students receive direct instruction under the supervision of classroom teachers. The SSAP teacher will function as a case manager who provides ancillary services.

##### **Specific Student Eligibility Criteria**

Students identified as off track or highly off track in grades 6 through 8 may be served in the secondary school SSAP. This may be manifested by one or more of the following:

1. Grade Point Average (current or cumulative) below 2.0 in core content areas.
2. Failing two or more subject areas within one school year.
3. History of one or more retentions.
4. More than 10% absentee rate, record of truancy, or frequent tardies.
5. Does not meet the state or district proficiency levels in reading, mathematics, science or writing.

##### **b. Promotion Recovery Alternative Program**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who remain at the middle school after ESY will be part of the Promotion Recovery Alternative Program and be placed in an appropriate plan based on individual course needs. The Promotion Recovery Alternative Program is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who did not meet criteria for promotion to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. These students work on recovery of skills to complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion requirements. Students must complete the exit criteria in order to transition to their zoned high school for the following school year. This program also serves 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who may be struggling academically or behind in earning promotion requirements. Reference the Middle School Off Track Prevention and Guidelines and Course Recovery Handbook for more information.

##### **c. GRACE Program**

The Grace Program has been adopted to provide grace and compassion to students during the Covid pandemic. This program is for students who are behind in new credit and need the program to meet the 18 or 24 credit graduation requirement or to meet the promotion requirements to transition to high school from middle school. Students participating in the Grace Program would be extending their opportunities beyond the school day either on campus or at home.

#### **Specific Student Eligibility Criteria**

Any student who is missing a new credit from 2019 to present or has a record of not meeting eligibility requirements for promotion to high school.

#### **Student Admission Procedures**

1. The school counselor, student support assistant personnel, and administration will determine placement in the Grace Program.
2. In the Grace Program up to two new high school credits or middle school equivalent courses may be earned.
3. Additional credits will require approval by the High School Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer.
4. When a student is determined eligible, a meeting will be held with the student and parent/guardian.
5. The student will be scheduled into the program either through the school supported site-based program or through Pasco eSchool. Parents must be made aware of the expectations of attendance hours, and where the completion of the course will be done (on school site or at home).

#### **School Site Program Requirements**

1. School site programs may be organized and held through extended school day or year programs.
2. With new credit, the teacher of record must be certified in the subject area of the new credit needed.
3. Student must complete 135 hours of seat time for a full one credit course, or 68 hours of seat time for a semester course. This is required by Florida Statute 1003.436. Schools must file verification of seat time completion in the student's cumulative folder.
4. Students will be enrolled in APEX as credit earning for the course.

#### **Pasco eSchool Program Requirements**

1. Students may be scheduled through an extended day period or through extended school year.
2. The teacher of record must be certified in the subject area of the new credit needed.
3. Students should be enrolled in Pasco eSchool site 7004 or 7006 as a second school.
4. The school may provide an area for students to complete the work.
5. Pasco eSchool's coursework should support the students for this program.
6. Schools may issue a device to students if this is a need to complete the needed credit.
7. Students must be enrolled in a course with Pasco eSchool for a minimum of 14 days to earn semester credit.

#### **4. Requirements for Placement of Transfer Students**

A Cognia accredited school shall accept and classify transfer courses earned or grade placement from schools that are accredited by a recognized national, regional or state accrediting agency without further validation based on the school's policies and procedures governing such offerings.

##### **a. Out-of-County, Out-of-State or Out-of-Country**

Any student who transfers from an out-of-state or out-of-country school will be placed in a grade or course determined by the principal and school counselor of the receiving school. Procedures for acceptance of transfer work and courses for students entering middle grades 6, 7, and 8 from out-of-state or out-of-country shall be as follows:

1. Grades earned and offered for acceptance shall be based on official transcripts and shall be accepted at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation. If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary, or if the student does not possess an official transcript or is a Home Education student, successful completion of courses shall be validated through performance during the first grading period as outlined in subsection (2) of this rule.
2. Validation of courses shall be based on performance in classes at the receiving school. A student transferring into a school shall be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should be passing each required course at the end of the first grading period. Students who do not meet this requirement shall have courses validated using the Alternative Validation Procedure.

Alternative Validation Procedure. If validation based on performance as described above is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternatives identified in the district student progression plan shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal, and parent:

1. Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee;
2. Demonstrated performance in courses taken at other public or private Cognia accredited schools;
3. Demonstrated proficiencies on nationally-normed standardized subject assessments;
4. Demonstrated proficiencies on state assessments;
5. Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school.
6. Students must be provided at least ninety (90) days from date of transfer to prepare for assessments outlined in paragraphs (3)(c) and (d) of this rule if required.

#### **b. Home Education and Private School Students**

When a student transfers from a Home Education program or private school, the principal of the receiving school is responsible for making an appropriate placement of the student. **Placement in the same grade as that recommended by the former program is not automatic.** Initial placement should be based on a review of academic progress and achievement documented by the former school or program. Parents of former Home Education students are responsible for presenting a portfolio of records and materials for review. The portfolio is to include a log of educational activities, titles of readings, and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student [[F.S. 1002.41\(b\)\(c\)](#)].

A four (4) to six (6) week screening period will be allowed from the time of enrollment, in order to assist with placement adjustments. An administrative placement decision may be made in consultation with the teacher(s), other appropriate staff, and parents/guardians. Serious consideration is to be given to screening results.

Students entering a Pasco District middle school from a Home Education program shall be granted course credits according to the type of documentation maintained and presented by the parent. Documentation may include a combination of official and unofficial transcripts from accredited or non-accredited schools, and/or a parent generated portfolio.

#### **c. Transfers from Florida Public K-8 Virtual School Programs**

Students transferring from any district virtual school program as authorized by the State of Florida are to be placed in a manner similar to public school transfers from other Florida districts. Full time enrollment for elementary Pasco eSchool needs to occur during the published enrollment period ([see District website](#)). Shared enrollment for students in Pasco eSchool may occur in alignment with the district drop/add timelines. Students may also take additional courses through Pasco eSchool beyond the regular school day with administrative approval.

#### **d. Assistance to Transitioning Students from Military Families [[F.S. 1003.05\(03\)](#)]**

Dependent children of active duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such programs even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned, the parent or guardian of the student must assume the responsibility for transporting the student to that school.

#### **e. Multiple Births [[F.S. 1003.06](#)]**

Multiple birth siblings who are assigned to the same grade level and school may be placed in the same classroom or separate classrooms if a request is made by the parents in writing within five (5) days before the first day of each school year or five (5) days after the first day the student enrolls in the school if they transfer during the school year.

[F.S. 1003.06\(6\)](#) specifies that the provisions do not apply to the right or obligations of students with disabilities under [F.S.1003.57](#) or under the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), regarding the individual placement decisions of the school district, or the removal of students pursuant to disciplinary policies.

After consulting with the teacher(s) involved at the end of the first grading period, the principal may review the siblings' placement. If it is determined that their placement is disruptive to the school, the principal may consider a more appropriate setting for the siblings.

A parent may appeal the principal's classroom placement of multiple birth siblings to the principal, in writing, within 5 days. The appeal will be forwarded to the Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools to make a final decision. During an appeal, the multiple birth siblings shall remain in the classroom chosen by the parent.

## **5. Student Rights for Instruction [F.S. 1000.05 and 1002.20]**

All public education courses shall be available to all students without regard to race, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status; however, this is not intended to eliminate the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) or exceptional students.

The English Language Learner (ELL) services are designed to meet the English language proficiency, academic, and social needs of ELLs as defined in the District ELL Plan – A Plan to Assure Comprehensible Instruction for ELLs. No student will be denied appropriate use of his/her primary language.

Pursuant to Florida statute, students have the right to access and parents have the right to enroll their child in a virtual education instruction program.

Any student who believes that he/she has been denied participation in or access to an educational program or activity, or has otherwise been discriminated against, may file a grievance according to the procedure established in Board policy.

## **6. Extended School Year Services**

Students are eligible for Extended School Year according to criteria specified in the *Extended School Year Services Guidelines*. After ESY, the referring middle school principal or designee will utilize the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Post ESY Guidelines to initiate a review process to determine placement and contact parent/guardian to provide a full explanation of the placement recommendation for the upcoming school year.

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade Retention**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not met promotion requirements by the end of ESY will be retained as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at their home school. Students will remain at the middle school after ESY and will be placed in an appropriate plan based on individual course needs. These students work on recovery of skills to complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion requirements. Students must complete the exit criteria in order to transition to their zoned high school for the following school year. Reference the MTSS Guidebook for more information. The final date a student can be promoted to high school is the Friday before Labor Day weekend. Students that remain at the middle school after Labor Day will work to complete their middle school promotion requirements and then transition to fulfilling high school requirements. Counselors should consult with the student's zoned high school for the appropriate coursework to assign to ensure a smooth transition for course progression.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are retained AND will turn 16 at some point during the academic year will be placed at the Education Academy. After ESY, the Student Services team at the Education Academy (School Counselor, Social Worker, Behavior Specialist) meets with the student and parents to begin the registration process, which includes educational and personal needs assessment. Student schedules are based on individual student needs for promotion recovery. The recovery classes are offered on campus through an integrated technology curriculum/virtual learning lab setting. The virtual learning lab setting is overseen by the Graduation Enhancement Resource Teacher, who offers support and additional blended instruction, as needed. The remainder of the student's schedule is dedicated to completing high school course requirements.

An 8<sup>th</sup> grade student placed at the Education Academy has the opportunity to be promoted to the zoned high school provided all promotion requirements are met by the Friday before Labor Day. Students not meeting criteria will remain at

the Education Academy for the entire school year. Students must complete the exit criteria below in order to be promoted and to return to their zoned high school: maintain regular attendance must recover all middle school courses.

For ESE students or students with 504 Plans, the team is convened to consider student needs and make revisions to the IEP or 504 Plan, as appropriate. Should the decision be made to place a student at the designated Education Academy, a registration appointment is arranged at the Education Academy and enrollment paperwork must be completed by the parent or guardian. Referrals generally occur at the beginning or end of the current school year including ESY, but may occur at any time, especially in cases of transfer students.

## 7. General Requirements for Middle Grade Promotion [F.S. 1003.4156]

The student must successfully complete\*:

English	3 courses	Emphasizing literature, composition, and technical text
Mathematics	3 courses	
Social Studies	3 courses	Including the study of state and federal government and civics** education
Science	3 courses	
One course in career and education planning to be completed in grades 6, 7, or 8.		

\*For a student to be promoted to high school from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the student must complete, among other requirements, one course in career and education planning to be completed in grades 6, 7, or 8, which may be taught by any member of the instructional staff. This course content may be integrated into another course the student is enrolled in.

\*\*Students enrolled in a civics course must sit for the State End of Course (EOC) assessment. The results of the assessment must comprise 30% of a student's Civics final year-long grade. Students enrolled in Civics during the 19-20 school year were not required to take the Civics EOC. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester grades were counted in academic history since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

\*\*\*For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who do not have the 30% calculation applied or do not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades that counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there will be no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

## 8. Required Program of Study

### a. Required Academic Courses

Grade 6 Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

Grade 7 Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

Grade 8 Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

Intensive Reading, Intensive Mathematics, and Intensive Basic Skills are designed to help meet the needs of identified students in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science. A preponderance of evidence should drive student placement decisions (i.e. benchmark, diagnostics and progress monitoring). Students in grades 6-8 who score at Level 1 or 2 on English Language Arts Assessment AND have a preponderance of evidence from the previous school year should receive intensive reading instruction above and beyond their core English Language Arts/Literacy course from a reading endorsed or certified teacher.

The course sequence for Pasco County social studies curriculum is as follows: Grade 6 US History, Grade 7 Civics, Grade 8 World History. Middle school Cambridge programs have the option to offer Pre-AICE Geography in place of Grade 8 World History. International Baccalaureate MYP schools will offer MYP World Cultures in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Advanced courses in language arts, science and social studies are offered at middle schools. For more information regarding eligibility, contact the school counselor.

#### **b. Electives and Other Courses**

One semester of physical education per year is required. Students in grade 6 will be required to take one semester of M/J Health GR 6.

Physical education may be waived for students for one of the following criteria:

1. The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
2. The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:
  - a. the student enrolls in another course from among those offered as options by the school district; or
  - b. the student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Human Growth and Development is taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through the M/J Health GR 6 course. Human Growth and Development is taught in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science courses. All students will receive instruction in health education and substance abuse prevention in grade 6 through M/J Health GR 6. The following practices will be followed for enrollment in M/J Health GR 6 for any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student from out of the country, out of the state, a private school, or a home education program:

1. If transferring after the beginning of first quarter, **a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student** should enroll in the M/J Health GR 6 course during the second semester.
2. If transferring during the third quarter, **a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student** should enroll in the M/J Health GR 6 course upon enrollment but no later than five (5) school days after third quarter progress reports are issued.
3. If transferring more than 5 days after the third quarter progress reports are issued, **a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student** may enroll in the M/J Health GR 6 course virtually.
4. Students enrolled in the IB MYP programs will receive health education through the integrated MYP Physical and Health Education courses each year.

#### **c. ESE Students**

Where appropriate, exceptions may be granted for ESE students through consultation with district staff.

#### **d. Civics Course Requirements [F.S. 1003.4156](#)**

Legislation requires students to take a semester of Civics instruction and sit for the EOC as part of the middle school curriculum. Results of the assessment must count for 30% of a student's final grade. In order to keep transfer students eligible for high school promotion, the following practices will be followed for any student from out of the country, out of the state, a private school, or a home education program:

1. If transferring before or during the first week of the second quarter, **a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student** should enroll in a Civics course. The student should be supported by providing him/her access to remediation materials.
2. If transferring after the start of the first week in the second quarter, **a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student** should enroll into an 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History course. The student would then take Civics during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.
3. If transferring after the beginning of the second semester, **an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student** is not required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion from the middle grades if the student's transcript documents passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long courses in social studies that include coverage of civics education.
4. Transfer students who have Civics credit on their transcript from outside of Pasco County Schools will not be required to participate in the State EOC for the corresponding subject.

## **9. Part-Time Students**

### **a. Part-Time Requirement**

All Pasco District secondary students must be enrolled on a full-time basis, which is defined as being enrolled in six (6) courses per semester, unless granted an exception by the School Board. A part-time student is any student not enrolled full-time.

Charter school, private school and other non-public full-time schools must have a formal agreement with the school district for students to attend a district school on a part-time basis. This agreement must include a description of services to be provided by the School District and must be approved by the School Board.

Home Education students may apply to attend their home zoned school on a part-time basis for access to courses required for participation in extra-curricular activities, with admission consideration restricted to the student's zoned school or by following School Board policy to attend outside the zoned attendance area. The home school is the primary provider of the student's education. The part-time student is not eligible for district recognition programs, graduation ceremonies, class ranking, honor roll, or to attend classes at multiple brick and mortar campuses.

## **10. Extra-Curricular Activities**

**a.** Students enrolled in Home Education and virtual programs who participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities may be required to enroll in the specific course required in their zoned school. All students are subject to established criteria for participation.

**b.** For Athletic eligibility, any middle school student may recover a maximum of two (2) core courses per semester to become academically eligible for the following semester. Those students who are enrolled in promotion recovery must complete the course(s) before the start of the new semester, and receive a "P" or passing grade, along with a 2.0 average GPA in all the other courses for that semester.

## **11. Cambridge Lower Secondary**

The Cambridge Lower Secondary exams are administered by Cambridge International. Students enrolled in Cambridge Lower Secondary courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade may be required to take Checkpoint exams when applicable to the content area and school.

## B. Middle School Grading

### 1. Reporting Student Progress

Parents or guardians of each student will be notified annually of the progress of the student toward achieving the District identified minimum levels of performance in, ELA, mathematics, science and social studies and the student's results on each statewide assessment. Evaluation of each student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments and other relevant information.

Parents or guardians must be notified when, during a reporting period, it is apparent that the student is failing or in danger of failing. In addition to report cards and progress reports, notifications may include letters, documented telephone calls, emails, the electronic grade book, or parent conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory conduct grade without prior parental contact. The opportunity for a conference with an administrator must be provided to the parent of any student who may be retained.

#### a. Supplemental Reporting Instruments

With the approval of the Superintendent (or his/her designee), schools may develop additional or supplementary reporting instruments that may be used in conjunction with the standard report card.

#### b. Report Card Distribution Schedule

Grades are reported to parents/students' grades K-12, via progress reports and report cards, four (4) to eight (8) times per school year. Virtual and Dual Enrollment courses have semester-based reporting periods.

### 2. Grades and Grading

#### a. Grading System, Scale, and Criteria

Students and parents will be advised of the grading criteria employed in the school and in each course at the beginning of the grading period. Students and parents are to be advised of these criteria, district wide standards, and state requirements for promotion and graduation. Grades will be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria.

The following scale will be used to determine report grades for each quarter ([F.S. 1003.437](#)): A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59

To determine semester and yearly grades, quarter numerical grades will be averaged. A quarter or semester grade of F may be averaged with a higher numerical value, not to exceed 59, when circumstances concerning the educational welfare of the student warrant it in the professional judgment of the teacher. The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decision regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures.

**b.** A student assessment that measures mastery of the standard(s) is required. For any course with content that is not aligned with a statewide or other approved assessment, the student will be expected to take a District Final that will account for 10% of the student's semester grade for the semester in which they take the assessment. District Finals will be entered into the student information system as reported by the assessment platform. If a student is enrolled in a course that is aligned to a District Final and they have been enrolled in the course for at least 50% of the length of the course, they are required to take the District Final (unless otherwise exempt).

If a student does not meet the required length of enrollment in a course or if there is an extenuating circumstance that was approved as an exemption by the principal or designee, it is up to the discretion of the teacher and administration of the school to determine what alternative will be given in lieu of the District Final for the course. Students enrolled in virtual (including APEX and eSchool courses) or dual enrollment courses will not take District Finals. However, these students will complete assessments aligned to the course content and approved by the principal or designee. Students enrolled in a course aligned to a District Final at the end of the 19-20 school year were not required to take a District Final. Since these students did not receive a District Final result, the second semester grade was computed as the average of the quarter three and quarter four grades.

**c. Grading Calculation in Courses NOT Assessed with a State of Florida EOC Assessment**

<b>Aligned Assessment</b>	<b>Course Length</b>	<b>Computing SEM 1 AVG</b>	<b>Computing SEM 2 AVG</b>
No District Final	Semester/Yearlong	QTR 1 grade x 50% + QTR 2 grade x 50%	QTR 3 grade x 50% + QTR 4 grade x 50%
District Final	Yearlong	QTR 1 grade x 50% + QTR 2 grade x 50%	QTR 3 grade x 45% + QTR 4 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%
District Final	Semester	QTR 1 grade x 45% + QTR 2 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%	QTR 3 grade x 45% + QTR 4 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%

The following grading conversion will be used for the assignment of District Final grades in the student information system:

<b>District Final % Correct</b>	<b>Achievement Band</b>	<b>District Final Converted Grade based on Achievement Band</b>
80% - 100%	5	100%
60% - 79%	4	89%
40% - 59%	3	79%
20% - 39%	2	69%
0.01% - 19%	1	59%

If a student earns a 0% on a District Final, the student will have a 0% entered into the student information system as the student's District Final grade for that course (unless the principal approves that extenuating circumstances prevented the student from taking/completing the District Final).

**d. Grading Calculation in Courses Assessed with a State of Florida EOC Assessment\***

The State of Florida requires students who enroll in Algebra I, Geometry, Civics, U.S. History, or Biology 1 to sit for the state EOC assessment. The grade from the state EOC assessment will count for 30% of a student's final grade. The subject area grade for students required to take a state EOC assessment will be computed in the manner outlined below. For any yearlong course that requires a State EOC, the semester grades will be excluded from the GPA calculations regardless of whether or not the student takes the assessment. The grade will be awarded in the form of a year-long grade that is used for the GPA calculation. If a student enrolled in a state EOC assessed course does not earn a valid score on the State EOC as a result of invalidation or fails to take the EOC on any regular or makeup dates provided during the term the student is enrolled in the course, the student will have a 0% entered into the student information system as the student's EOC grade for that course and the 0% will be applied as 30% of the yearlong course grade until the student sits for the EOC and produces a valid score.

Course Length	Computing SEM 1 AVG	Computing SEM 2 AVG	Converted EOC Final Year Grade Based on Achievement Level*
Yearlong	QTR 1 percentage grade x 50% + QTR 2 percentage grade x 50%	QTR 3 percentage grade x 50% + QTR 4 percentage grade x 50%	SEM 1 percentage grade x 35% + SEM 2 percentage grade x 35% + EOC x 30%

\* Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Civics, Biology, Geometry and/or U.S. History during the 19-20 school year were not required to take the state EOC. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation (Since civics does not have an impact on GPA calculation, the semester grades will not be used for GPA calculation) since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses are permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

\*For students who successfully complete a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there will be no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

The following grading scale will be used for calculating the 30% State EOC component of the year-long grade in the student information system:

Achievement Level	EOC Converted Grade
5	100%
4	89%
3	79%
2	69%
1	59%

#### e. Grade Point Averages (GPA)

A cumulative GPA is not documented for middle school courses. The following policy is used for the purpose of identifying honor roll participants and data review in our Early Warning System. However, middle school students will earn a cumulative GPA for all high school courses in which they earn a grade. The GPA will become part of their high school records. For middle school athletic eligibility, semester grades for all courses taken in middle should be used for GPA calculations and course progression decisions.

### 1. Computation of a High School Course Unweighted GPA

The unweighted GPA is used to meet the high school graduation GPA requirement. To properly compute an unweighted GPA, the following formula is used:

GPA	=	4 (# of A grades)
	+	3 (# of B grades)
	+	2 (# of C grades)
	+	1 (# of D grades)
	+	0 (# of F grades)
	÷	Total Number of Semester Grades

### 2. Computation of a High School Course Weighted GPA

Honors, identified Pre-International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge Pre-AICE receive quality points as follows per credit earned:

A	=	4.5
B	=	3.5
C	=	2.5
D	=	1.5
F	=	0

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge AICE and Dual Enrollment courses [F.S. 1007.271](#) receive quality points as follows per credit earned:

A	=	5
B	=	4
C	=	3
D	=	2
F	=	0

If a yearlong course is passed, and one of the semester grades is an F, then the final grade which is the average of the two semesters, will be doubled for GPA calculations. This applies to all grade point average calculations included in this section. All calculations are carried to the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal place and rounded to the 4<sup>th</sup> decimal place. Pass/fail grades are not calculated in the GPA calculation. This applies to all grade point average calculations included in this section.

#### f. Report Card Grades and Attendance Reporting [\[F.S. 1003.33\]](#)

Each district school board shall establish and publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and high school students. These report cards must clearly depict and grade:

- The student’s academic performance in each class or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria, and must include the student’s performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level.
- The student’s conduct and behavior.
- The student’s attendance, including absences and tardiness.

- A student's final report card for a school year shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level, acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and promotion or non-promotion.

District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt students from academic performance requirements based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement.

#### **g. Grades in Conduct**

Grades in conduct are to reflect the student's progress independent of academic achievement. Standards for grading in these areas are to be explained to the students. Conduct implies the degree to which a student relates to others, to him/her self, and to the environment in socially acceptable ways. Students are to receive grades in all courses in which they are enrolled in a secondary school. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory conduct grade without prior parental contact.

#### **h. Changing a Grade**

The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decisions regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures. If the principal of a school feels it is necessary to change a student's grades in any subject, the principal shall consult with the teacher who issued the original grade, give the reasons in writing for the necessary change to the teacher, and note the reason(s) in the student reporting system. If a change in grade is made, it shall be recorded as the principal's grade and not the teacher's grade. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified of all such changes.

#### **i. Averaging Grades**

A quarter or semester grade of an F may be averaged with a higher numerical value, not to exceed 59, when circumstances concerning the educational welfare of the student are warranted. The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decision regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures. Documentation is required.

#### **j. English Language Learners (ELL)**

ELLs will be graded on the general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements; however, the instructor will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations in order to provide comprehensible instruction at the learner's level of English acquisition and give the student the opportunity to learn content, even with limited English proficiency.

English Language Learners will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades if ELL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have not been implemented as required by the Florida Consent Decree. Additionally, ELLs will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades based solely on lack of English language proficiency. In order to provide comprehensible instruction and give ELLs access to content and the opportunity to learn, the ELA, content area, and elective teachers will provide differentiation strategies, assignment modifications, and instructional and assessment accommodations in accordance with the Florida Consent Decree.

#### **k. Awarding Yearlong Grades in State EOC Courses**

When a student transfers from a Florida school district with a full credit in a state EOC course but takes the EOC assessment in Pasco County, when it is a benefit to the student, the school will reach out to the transferring county to request the yearlong grade be calculated as determined by the state and to provide an updated transcript with the new grade. In the event that the transferring county will not calculate a yearlong grade in a state EOC course, the yearlong grade will be calculated by Pasco County. The yearlong grade will then be assigned to the prior school district.

### **3. Student Recognition for Honor Roll Status**

#### **a. Honor Roll Student Selection**

##### **1. School Quarter Honor Roll Determination**

Schools may recognize students each quarter for academic achievement. Dual Enrollment and FLVS courses do not earn quarter grades and are therefore not available for inclusion in the determination of honor roll status for quarter grading periods. Pasco eSchool courses may be included in Quarter Honor Roll and grades will be shared with schools by the Pasco eSchool administration. Quarter Honor Roll Recognitions will not be awarded to students who earn a quarter grade of D or F in any of their courses. If a school chooses to offer quarter honor roll, the levels and rules of honor roll in sub section B below will apply.

##### **2. School Semester Honor Roll Determination**

All grades posted for the semester will be used in the honor roll calculation. Students enrolled in one or more courses through Pasco eSchool, virtual or dual enrollment courses may be eligible for honor roll recognition provided that grades are received and entered into the student information system by the time report cards are issued for brick and mortar courses. Students must have at least six (6) grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits posted for the current semester to be eligible for the semester honor roll designation.

##### **3. Superintendent Honor Roll Determination**

A Superintendent Honor Roll designation will be awarded after final report cards are issued to students who meet the following criteria:

- a. All grades issued must be an "A" for each quarter/semester
- b. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits posted for each semester to be eligible.
- c. Virtual or dual enrollment courses may be eligible for honor roll recognition provided that grades are received and entered into the student information system by the time report cards are issued for brick and mortar courses.
- d. Transfer grades from other districts do not qualify.
- e. Charter and Home School students are not included.

#### **b. Levels of Honor Roll**

Schools will award honor status each semester to students who qualify for one of the following two levels of honor roll designations. Schools awarding quarter honor roll should use the rules below when making their determinations. Please note that Pasco eSchool quarter grades are not in the student information system but are shared with schools by the Pasco eSchool administration.

1. Straight A Honor Roll: Awarded to students who have an "A" in all of the courses completed during the semester, with grades documented in the student information system. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits posted for the current semester to be eligible.
2. A/B Honor Roll: Awarded to students who have an "A" or a "B" in all of the courses completed during the semester, with grades documented in the student information system. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits posted for the current semester to be eligible.

## **C. Middle School Attendance**

### **1. No Academic Exceptions Based on Attendance [F.S. 1003.33(2)]**

Schools shall not exempt students from academic performance requirements, such as final exams based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirements.

### **2. Withdrawal After Age 16**

Public school students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's school counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the student in school. A student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board.

### **3. Assignment Within District**

The Superintendent or designee may assign or reassign students on a case-by-case basis to schools or programs other than that designated by the attendance area (zoned school) when such an exception is necessary to promote the health, safety or welfare of the student, other students or staff.

### **4. Part-Time Enrollment**

Charter school, private school and other non-public full-time schools must have a formal agreement with the school district for students to attend a district school on a part-time basis. This agreement must include a description of services to be provided by the School District and must be approved by the School District.

Home Education students may apply to attend their home zoned school on a part-time basis (for access to courses required for participation in extra-curricular activities, with admission consideration restricted to the student's zoned school or by following School Board policy to attend outside the zoned attendance area. The home school is the primary provider of the student's education. The part-time student is not eligible for district recognition programs, graduation ceremonies, class ranking, honor roll, or attend classes at multiple brick and mortar campuses.

\*Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for unexcused/excused absence, truancy and make-up work policies.

## D. Middle School Alternative Curriculum Options

### 1. Home Education

A Home Education program is the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirement of [F.S. 1002.01](#), [1002.41](#), [1003.01\(13\)](#), and [1003.21\(1\)](#).

Home Education programs must meet the following registration and compliance requirements ([F.S. 1002.41](#)):

- a. Parents must register Home Education students with Pasco County Schools within 30 days of the establishment of the Home Education program.
- b. Parents must provide written notice of termination to Pasco County Schools within 30 days of the termination of a Home Education program.
- c. Parents must maintain a portfolio of records, educational activities and materials. Completion of online courses may be used as portfolio documents. Portfolios are to be preserved for two (2) years and shall be made available for the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent's designee, upon 15 days' written notice.
- d. Parents shall provide for annual educational evaluations documenting that the student's educational progress is at a level commensurate with his or her ability.
- e. A Home Education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.

Home education students must follow all the rules set forth in Florida Statute [1002.41](#), even if the student is participating in virtual curriculum.

### 2. Pasco eSchool

Online courses through Pasco eSchool will be offered to students.

- a. The District shall provide eligible students the option of participating in a virtual instruction program. The program shall provide virtual instruction to students enrolled in virtual courses for kindergarten through grade 12 on a full-time or part-time basis.
- b. Pasco eSchool courses shall be available to students during the normal school day and through the extended year program ([F.S. 1001.42\(23\)](#)). It is the parent's and student's right to participate in a school district virtual instruction program. c. A student may not enroll in the same course, same semester curriculum at the same time.
- d. Students taking a full day of instruction (6 courses) through Pasco eSchool may choose one of the following:
  1. Student will be reassigned to a cost center (7004) as their school of enrollment if they have applied for admission and been accepted during an open enrollment window.
  2. Students will remain enrolled at their zoned school with administrator approval.
- e. Full time eSchool students must register with the Pasco eSchool office and attend orientation. Full time eSchool students are allowed to participate in activities at their zoned school.
- f. Shared enrollment for students in Pasco eSchool may occur in alignment with the district drop/add timelines. Students may also take additional courses through Pasco eSchool outside the regular school day with administrative or counselor approval.

### 3. Florida Virtual School (FLVS)

#### a. Credits

A student may earn credits offered through the FLVS each year.

#### b. Courses

FLVS courses shall be available to students during or after the normal school day and through summer school enrollment ([F.S. 1001.42\(23\)](#)). A student may not enroll concurrently in the same course, within the same semester when already enrolled within Pasco County Schools. Students may not drop a course after the drop/add deadline in order to enroll in an online course with FLVS.

#### c. Enrollment Approval Requirements

Students requesting to take a course offered by FLVS must have counselor and parent approval ([F.S. 1002.20 \(6\)](#)).

**d. Acceleration**

Students intending to accelerate graduation by using the FLVS courses must have a written plan that is approved by administration and parents and outlines the projected course plan for high school. The plan will identify projected courses taken within and outside of the regular attendance requirements, timelines, and location for accessing the internet.

## **E. Middle School Exceptional Student Education**

### **1. Promotion of Exceptional Students in Grades 6-8**

#### **a. State Standards**

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students pursuing the current state standards will be considered for promotion based on the promotion requirements specified in the Student Progression Plan for basic education students with accommodations as identified in the Individual Educational Plan IEP.

#### **b. Florida Standards Access Points**

Florida Standards Access Points are included in ESE courses. Passing courses in which modified standards are included is sufficient documentation of mastery of standards.

Consideration for promotion of ESE students who are pursuing Florida Standards Access Points will be made on the basis of classroom performance, standardized testing or an alternate assessment, and social development.

### **2. ELL Services for Students with Disabilities**

ESE students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) must be served with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications and accommodations, as well as, ESE modifications and accommodations listed in the IEP. It shall not be construed that services in ESOL and ESE are mutually exclusive. However, students may be evaluated following district procedures to determine if the student's exceptionality renders services afforded ELLs to be ineffective or to run counter to the goals of the IEP interferes with the student's ability to benefit from ESOL services. In such cases, the ELL committee must meet to make determinations as per the current District ELL Plan. When appropriate students are entitled to both ESOL and ESE services.

### **3. Middle School Course Requirements for Exceptional Students**

All middle school exceptional students will be required to pass the same general areas of academic or career and technical disciplines as basic education students, unless enrolled in access points curriculum. Basic, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) or career and technical education courses may be used to meet these requirements.

Course length or time requirements for each area (academic, career/technical, elective) for middle school ESE students may be adjusted if specified and documented in the IEP.

Students who are eligible for homebound instruction may be given the option to take fewer courses due to their medical/mental condition if specified and documented in the IEP. Online courses may not have course lengths adjusted.

ESE academic courses (7800000 courses) have Florida Standards Access Points embedded in them. By their nature they are not content equivalent to basic education courses and parents must be made aware of this whenever a student is recommended for placement in one or more of these ESE academic courses.

Regular standards academic courses may be provided by an ESE teacher who is highly qualified for social studies, mathematics, language arts and science if these courses are identified with the same course number and title as the basic education course, and the same performance standards and content are taught. Accommodations should be provided for exceptional students as specified in the IEP.

Students ages fourteen and older need to be provided with instruction or information in the area of self-determination to assist the students to be able to actively and effectively participate in IEP meetings and self-advocate, if appropriate ([SBR 6A-6.03028](#)).

### **4. Waiver of Statewide, Standardized Assessment Requirements (For Civics EOC only)**

The Enhanced New Needed Opportunity for Better Life and Education for Students with Disabilities (ENNOBLES) Act, addresses access to post-secondary education and meaningful careers for students with disabilities [F.S. 1007.02].

For the purposes of this act, the term “student with disability” means any student who is documented as having an intellectual disability; a hearing impairment, including deafness; a speech or language impairment; a visual impairment, including blindness; an emotional or behavioral disability; an orthopedic or other health impairment; an autism spectrum disorder; a traumatic brain injury; or a specific learning disability, including, but not limited to dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia.

Section 1008.22(3)(c)1., Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires that school districts provide instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate satisfactory performance in the core content knowledge and skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation. Assessment results may be waived under specific circumstances for students with disabilities for the purpose of receiving a course grade and a standard high school diploma. Specific requirements regarding the waiver process are found in s. 1008.22(3)(c)2., F.S.

In order to be considered for the waiver from the statewide, standardized assessment graduation requirement, the student must:

**a.** The student must be identified as a student with a disability as defined in S.1007.02.FS:

- 1.** The term “student with a disability” means a student who is documented as having an intellectual disability, hearing impairment, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment, an orthopedic or other health impairment, an emotional or behavioral impairment, autism spectrum disorder. A traumatic brain injury, or specific learning disability including but not limited to, dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia.
- 2.** The student must have an individual educational plan (IEP).
- 3.** The student must have taken the statewide standardized assessment with appropriate allowable accommodations at least once.
- 4.** In accordance with S.1008.22(3)C.2. F.S., the IEP team must make a determination of whether a statewide standardized assessment accurately measures the student’s abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations for students with disabilities.

If there is sufficient evidence that the student has mastered the applicable standards and the IEP team determines that the assessment is not an accurate measure of the student’s ability, the statewide standardized assessment requirement may be waived, and the student may graduate with a standard diploma.

A statewide standardized assessment waiver may be used for both the traditional 24-Credit graduation program and the 18-Credit/3-Year options.

## **5. Florida Standards Access Points Assessment Waivers (For Civics EOC only)**

Students following Florida Standards Access Points course work whose performance on the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment is below a level 3 (scale of 1-4) may have results of the assessments waived. A graduation portfolio of quantifiable evidence of achievement must be developed. The portfolio must include:

- a.** Listing of courses, the student has taken
- b.** Grades received
- c.** Student work samples
- d.** Materials that demonstrate growth, improvement, and mastery of required course standards Multi-media portfolios that contain electronic evidence of progress are permissible.

## **6. Reporting Student Progress**

**a. Report Cards and Grading**

Students in Exceptional Education Programs pursuing current state standards and Florida Standards Access Points will receive a standard report card.

**b. Progress Reports**

Parents or guardians must be notified in writing at any time during a reporting period when it is apparent that the student is failing or in danger of failing in any subject or may need retention in his/her grade level. Notifications may include report cards, progress reports, letters, documented telephone calls, emails and/or parent conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child's/parent's home language. Such notification shall also apply to social growth/behavior and work habits.

Parents will receive a report on the progress of the ESE student toward achieving Individual Educational Plan IEP goals at least quarterly. This is in addition to academic progress reports as noted in [IDEA 97-300.347\(a\)7\(ii\)](#) and [SBR 6A-6.03028\(7\)\(g\)](#).

**7. Student Rights/Parent Notification**

Status with regard to mastery of current state standards or Florida Standards Access Points should be discussed with parents at each Individual Educational Plan IEP review/revision conference. Additionally, graduation options should be discussed with parents at these conferences, to include an explanation of the type of standards the student is attempting to master.

In order for a student to participate in instruction in the Florida Standards Access Points the parent must provide informed consent. The IEP team must complete the *Florida Department of Education Parental Consent Form/Prior Written Notice Instruction in the State Standards Access Points Curriculum and Florida Alternate Assessment Administration Form*.

The parents of each exceptional student shall be notified of the graduation options available at the IEP meeting prior to age 12.

## V. HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12) POLICIES



### **Section V** **High School**



## A. High School Curriculum and Instruction

### 1. Introduction

The high school section of the Student Progression Plan (SPP) for grades 9-12 students is designed to support the District's vision of providing a world-class education that will prepare our students for college, career, and life. This vision places a focus on standards based, high impact instruction that is rooted in high expectations for all students.

The SPP is designed to ensure that all students meet high academic standards through a standards-driven curriculum, rigorous and relevant instruction, and instruction that is focused on critical thinking and problem solving. The effectiveness of this instruction is evaluated through the District's comprehensive system for student progression. The program analyzes assessment data through a universal screening and continuous progress monitoring system to identify students that need more intensive instructional support in order to accelerate growth. These instructional interventions are implemented and the student responses to them are continuously monitored to determine the level of effectiveness. Areas addressed within the plan are focused on preparing students to achieve success in college, career, and life.

Note: Updates from legislation may occur after the publication of this document. Though every effort is made to address the impact of State Statute and Federal mandates on Pasco County Schools' policies, it is possible that answers may not be found in this document. These omissions are not to be construed as Pasco County Schools granting permission for issues not covered in the Student Progression Plan. For clarification on these types of issues, please contact the Director of the Office for Leading and Learning.

### 2. Course Credit (F.S. 1003.436 and 1007.271)

One full credit for high school graduation is defined as a minimum of 135 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course that contains student performance standards, or the equivalent of six semester hours of college credit. Under the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) [per s.1003.4295\(3\)](#), a student may receive course credit by earning a passing score on a state End of Course assessment, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or Advanced Placement Exam (AP). Dual Enrollment courses vary in credits, reference the [Dual Enrollment High School Equivalency list](#) for more information. Students enrolled in virtual school courses are issued credit by demonstrating mastery of course objectives.

#### Course Titles on Transcripts

A course title on a student transcript means that the student is receiving regular, planned instruction by a teacher following the course content. The teacher is setting the pace, providing assignments, assessments and tests. GPA weight is dependent upon the course.

A course title may appear on a student transcript without a corresponding entry on the student schedule if a student earns a passing score on the state End of Course assessment, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or Advanced Placement Exam (AP). When students earn course credit in this manner, the course will reflect a grade of T and will not impact the overall grade point average. As Dual Enrollment courses vary in credits, the Dual Enrollment High School Equivalency list should be referenced for more information. Students enrolled in virtual school courses are issued credit by demonstrating mastery of course objectives with the grades being issued by the corresponding virtual program. The course will not carry a final grade and will not impact the grade point average.

### 3. Courses Excluded from Credit Awarding [F.S. 1003.43(7)(20)(21)]

No high school student may be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in the following courses or programs:

- a. more than a total of nine (9) elective credits in remedial programs;
- b. more than three (3) credits in practical arts family and consumer science courses;
- c. more than one (1) credit in exploratory career and education courses designed as initial exposure to a broad range of occupations; or

- d. any Level 1 course unless the student's assessment indicates that a more rigorous course of study would be inappropriate, in which case a written assessment must be included in the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or a student performance plan, such as a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) and signed by the principal, the school counselor, and the parent, or the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

#### 4. Courses and Programs

The following courses and programs are recognized by Pasco County Schools as approved programs for granting course credit:

- a. Pasco County School's approved courses and programs
- b. Other accredited educational institutions, in accordance with section V-A (14)
- c. State of Florida End of Course exams (EOC)
- d. Earning a passing score on an AP or CLEP Exam

#### 5. Credit Earning [F.S. 1003.436(2)]

a. In awarding credit for high school graduation, a one-half (.5) credit earned system shall include courses provided on a full-year basis. A student enrolled in a full-year course shall receive one-half (.5) credit if the student successfully completes either the first half or second half of a full-year course but fails to successfully complete the other half of the course and the averaging of the grades obtained in each half would not result in a passing grade. Credit will also be earned by passing Florida EOC exams as defined by state graduation requirements. Dual Enrollment courses vary in credits, reference the [Dual Enrollment High School Equivalency list](#) for more information.

Passing of the Algebra 1 EOC is not required to earn credit in the course. Passing the Algebra 1 EOC or earning a comparative score on a state approved exam is required to earn a standard high school diploma. Middle School and High School Courses enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC, earning a comparative score, for these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses are permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

b. The State of Florida allows students to earn credit with a passing score on the following state EOC exams: Algebra I, Geometry, U.S. History and Biology I. Students transferring from outside the state of Florida may be awarded credit in an EOC course if they meet requirements found in section V-A.14.

c. Students may earn high school credit in courses required for high school graduation by earning a score of 3, 4, or 5 on a College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examination or a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examination in a state approved course of study. If a student attains such score on an AP examination or CLEP examination, the school district will award course credit to the student without requiring the student to be enrolled in or to complete the course. Courses eligible for CLEP examinations have been listed by course title and the applicable subject codes in the Florida Course Code Directory in the year the credit was earned.

#### 6. Determination of Mastery of Student Performance Standards

Student performance standards are measured on a regular and continuous basis. Such measurements may be made through the use of teacher observations, classroom assignments, and traditional and alternative forms of assessment. It is not the

intent of Pasco County Schools to measure student performance standards solely through the use of a single method or instrument (e.g., County/District assessments, Advanced Placement exam score). However, the State of Florida has authorized a mechanism by which students may earn course credit, in specifically identified courses, through the passing of state EOC exams. See [F.S. 1003.4295](#).

A student demonstrates mastery of student performance standards for a district-approved course when through teacher observations, classroom assignments, and traditional and alternative forms of assessment, it has been determined that a student has attained a passing score for the course. This score (minimum of 60 percent) and the procedures to be used to determine semester and yearly averages are in accordance with the procedures as outlined in the Student Progression Plan.

In the determination of mastery of student performance standards for high school credit, it is the intent of Pasco County Schools to utilize student performance standards which are clear and precise statements of what the learner is expected to do by the end of a prescribed learning period; reflective of the essential knowledge, skills, concepts, or behaviors contained in the district-approved course descriptions; and clearly communicated to all learners at the beginning of a course or unit of instruction.

#### **a. Credits for English Language Learners (ELLs)**

In accordance with State Board Education rules [6A-6.0904](#) and [6A-6.0908](#) and the District's English Language Learners Plan (ELL Plan), ELLs shall have equal access to appropriate instructional programming, and to programs other than ESOL. ELL students must also be given equal access to all curriculum, including Advanced Placement, honor courses, dual enrollment, and any special programs regardless of their English language proficiency. The general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements will be the basis of their curriculum. The teacher will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, along with instructional and assessment accommodations to ensure that students have the opportunity to master standards, at the learner's level of English acquisition.

Credit shall be given toward fulfilling graduation requirements for each basic subject area course completed satisfactorily. ELLs shall be given elective credit for basic ESOL courses (e.g., Developmental Language Arts through ESOL, ESOL Listening and Speaking, ESOL Reading and Writing, ESOL combined skills courses).

#### **b. Variety of Instructional Techniques and Instructional Media**

A variety of instructional techniques and instructional media consistent with the needs of individuals or student groups should be utilized. In particular, varied instructional strategies, special communications equipment, or modification of methods of evaluation may be used to accommodate those students with disabilities and students in alternative education programs who are working on basic program or career and technical education program student performance standards.

### **7. Drop/Add Procedures for Continuing Students**

#### **a. Timeline to Drop Semester Courses**

A student may request to drop a semester course and add a yearlong course within five (5) school days after first quarter report cards are issued. A student may request to drop a semester course and add a semester course within five (5) school days after first quarter or third quarter progress reports are issued.

At the start of the second semester, schools may enroll Junior/Senior level students, who are in the semester long course of Reading for College Success, into a yearlong Intensive Reading course.

#### **b. Timeline to Drop Full-Year Courses**

A student may drop a yearlong course and add a yearlong course within 5 school days after first quarter report cards are issued.

Principals may approve dropping a yearlong course at midyear and adding a semester course within 5 school days after the third quarter progress report.

**c. Timeline for Dropping Dual Enrollment Courses**

Pasco County students must follow the drop/add/withdrawal procedures and timelines established by the articulation agreements. All Pasco County students must maintain full-time student status. Pasco County Dual Enrollment students cannot enroll in Dual Enrollment courses that conflict with their high school course schedule.

**d. Timeline for Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Virtual Courses and Pasco eSchool**

While FLVS and Pasco eSchool may have institutional drop/add procedures and timelines, all district students must carry a course load of six (6) active courses (WKTHS/KRAI 7 courses/3.5 credits are required per semester). While students await placement and activation in their FLVS/Pasco eSchool courses, they must remain enrolled full-time. Pasco eSchool students must also comply with the timelines designated for continuing students.

**1. Dropping a Brick and Mortar Course and Adding a Virtual Course**

Students cannot be prevented from enrolling in courses through an accredited virtual program, however, proper advisement about the consequences of doing so should occur. Students should remain enrolled in the brick and mortar course until they become activated in the virtual course. Students may drop a brick and mortar course and enroll in a virtual course within five (5) days of when first and third quarter progress reports are issued.

**2. Dropping a Virtual course and adding a Brick and Mortar Course**

A student may enter a year- long brick and mortar course after dropping a virtual course up to five (5) days after the first quarter report cards are issued. A student may request a schedule change into an online course at the semester break. Virtual drop/withdraw grade and credit guidelines still apply. A student may enter a semester brick and mortar course after dropping an online course up to five (5) days after the first or third quarter progress reports are issued. Students who drop a virtual course must maintain fulltime student status.

3. If a student is dropped from an FLVS course, the student may enter a course with Pasco eSchool at any time or on their school campus at the beginning of the following semester, if space permits. Students who are dropped from a virtual course must take action to maintain fulltime student status. The Florida Virtual and Pasco eSchool "CF" (Complete Failing) codes will be treated as a grade of F on the student transcript and will affect the GPA. If a student withdraws from a virtual course and receives a WF (Withdrawn/Failing) or a WP (Withdrawn/Passing) code, then the student earns no grade for the time spent in the course and no credit will be issued. The "WF" and "WP" codes will show on the student transcript but will not affect the GPA. A student may not recover the credit for a course coded "WF" or "WP" in the credit recovery program (APEX).

**e. Timeline for Adding and Dropping Pasco eSchool Courses**

While Pasco eSchool may have institutional drop/add procedures and timelines, all full-time district students must carry a course load of six (6) active courses per semester or equivalent to 3 credits or be a full-time dual enrollment student (WKTHS/KRAI) 7 courses/3.5 credits are required per semester) and must comply with the timelines designated for continuing students. While students await placement in Pasco eSchool courses, they must maintain an enrollment that meets full-time status.

**f. Timeline for Exiting Online Courses**

Students who are exited from an online course during the drop/add dates may add the same course at their school site or be transferred to another online platform.

**g. Assignment of Grade**

When a student adds a course and a first or third quarter grade has already been assigned, in the course that was dropped, that grade will be carried forward. In a drop/add situation, the receiving teacher assigns the semester grade. The teacher of the dropped course will not assign a grade beyond drop date.

**h. Record of Changes**

Courses that are dropped may not appear on report cards; however, the student information system will retain all drop/add changes. All quarter, semester and final grades that are issued, will appear on the local transcript in the student information system.

**i. Exceptions**

Exceptions to the drop/add policies may exist for students with disabilities, transfer students, and students who are exited as withdrawn from Florida Virtual School (FLVS), Pasco eSchool, and Dual Enrollment courses. Superintendent's staff approval is required for these exceptions.

**8. Extended School Year Services**

Extended School Year eligibility is to be based on Pasco County Schools' *Extended School Year Services General Guidelines*.

**9. Beginning of the School Year Grade Classification**

**a. For students entering 9th grade**

Students will be classified at the beginning of each school year based on the number of years from the time they first enter a 9th grade cohort. In this way, students in one cohort will progress as a group until the year they graduate.

First year - Freshman (grade 9)

Second year - Sophomore (grade 10)

Third year - Junior (grade 11)

Fourth year - Senior (grade 12)

**b. Senior Status (Acceleration)**

Students that accelerate will remain in their grade level until they enroll in the last semester of all class(es) needed to graduate based on graduation requirements. For example, if at the start of the second semester a student remains enrolled in yearlong classes, and those classes will be the last needed to meet graduation requirements, the student will be considered a senior. Or, if a student is taking classes through a virtual school and enrolls in November in the last class, or set of classes needed to meet graduation requirements, they would be classified as a senior at that time.

Students graduating in three years will be classified as a senior at the beginning of the second semester of their third year. Students graduating in December of their third year will be classified as seniors at the beginning of the first semester of that school year. Students may participate in senior activities prior to being promoted to senior status at the discretion of the principal.

**c. Double Promotion**

For students who have accelerated in the completion of credits toward graduation beyond those required for their designated grade level, consideration may be given to double-promote those students as long as the following conditions exist: the student must be found eligible for double grade promotion due to having earned the minimum high school credits toward graduation to be promoted to the targeted grade level, have an acceleration plan, have goals related to the completion of advanced courses, and a plan to meet graduation requirements by a specified date. If a student meets the conditions outlined above, the request will be delivered to the school Principal and Assistant Superintendent for final approval.

**10. Reading (F.S. 1003.4282)**

A preponderance of evidence should drive student placement decisions (i.e. benchmark, diagnostics and progress monitoring). Students in grades 9-12 who score at Level 1 or 2 on the state English Language Arts Assessment AND a have a preponderance of evidence from the previous school year should receive intensive reading instruction above and beyond their core English Language Arts/Literacy course from a reading endorsed or certified teacher.

English Language Learners (ELLs) may be enrolled in the Developmental Language Arts through English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) elective course in place of a yearlong reading course. Level 1 and level 2 students who have earned a concordant score for the tenth-grade state ELA assessment will not be required to be enrolled into reading courses. The Superintendent or designee must approve any exceptions. Members of the 2013-2014 and beyond 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts are not eligible for a one- year exemption from the reading remediation requirement.

#### **11. Requirements for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (F.S. 1003.42)**

The curriculum, instruction, and assessment system of Pasco County Schools is aligned with the Florida State Education Goals and Performance Standards as defined by the Florida Department of Education. Each school will offer courses of study and instruction that reflect the appropriate state standards in K–12 language arts, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, fine and performing arts, physical education, health, and world languages. Instruction will address the skills and competencies that a student must master in order to graduate from high school [[F.S. 1001.03, and 1003.4282](#)].

##### **a. Instruction**

Instruction will be offered in each high school that complies with Pasco’s Vision: Success for All Students in College, Career, and Life. Such instruction will be based on the current state standards where appropriate.

Instruction will be offered in each school that meets the requirements of the Florida state statutes which includes a career interest inventory and a broad orientation to career clusters to assist students in focusing on academic and career goals and post-secondary planning.

##### **b. English Language Learners (ELLs)**

In accordance with State Board Education rules [6A-6.0904](#) and [6A-6.0908](#) and the District’s Limited English Proficient Plan (LEP Plan), ELLs shall have equal access to appropriate instructional programming, and to programs other than ESOL. ELL students must be given equal access to the general curriculum, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, honors courses, and any special programs regardless of their English language proficiency. The general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements will be the basis of their curriculum. The teacher will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations in order to provide comprehensible instruction at the learner’s level of English acquisition. Instructional strategies and accommodations are required to ensure equal opportunity to master the general curriculum, content vocabulary, grade-level standards, and course content.

An ELL is afforded the appropriate use of his/her primary language in accordance with State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.0908.3 and Florida Statutes [1002.20\(10\)](#) and [1003.56](#). No student shall be denied appropriate use of his/her primary language at school.

##### **c. Statewide Assessment**

Each student must participate in statewide assessment at designated grade levels or aligned courses as required by F.S. [1008.22](#).

#### **12. Public School Student Progression, Remedial Instruction, and Reporting Requirements (F.S. 1008.25)**

##### **a. Promotion**

The time required to complete high school will depend upon successful completion of required state and district credits, testing requirements and grade point average. A High School student’s grade level does not reflect the number of credits earned or graduation readiness.

Students will be assigned to a grade level based on their entry date into the ninth-grade cohort.

##### **b. Promotion with Instructional Support**

Any student who has been retained at the middle school may be promoted with instructional support during the next school year to the high school if the middle school and high school principals determine that the student will benefit from instruction at the high school level, provided the student has met the requirements outlined in [Florida Statute 1003.4156](#). In all cases the

student's cumulative record must have "promoted with instructional support" written on it. In no case shall this decision be based on age or on the basis of social factors.

If a student appears to be having difficulty meeting promotion requirements, the professional staff should do an evaluation to be certain that the student does not require placement in exceptional student education.

**c. For Promotion after Retention**

Parents are to be notified formally in writing that their child is being promoted to the next grade with instructional support. A copy of this notification should be placed in the student's records. Formal notification will be in a language or mode of communication understandable by non-English speaking parents.

**c. Middle School Promotion to High School During the School Year ([F.S. 1008.25](#))**

The assignment of a student to a higher grade which results in the student's skipping a grade or part of a grade should be based on evidence that the student will benefit from the instructional program at the advanced grade level. This decision should consider factors including academic skill levels, intellectual abilities, social maturity, and motivation. The school principal (principals when two schools are involved) has the responsibility for making such an assignment. In all cases a parental/student conference and consent are required each student's records, motivation and parental support must be looked at to make this decision. A promotion during the school year may be considered if the student has met middle school promotion requirements, following the Post-ESY 8<sup>th</sup> grade guidance document.

**d. Remediation**

Students are provided multiple opportunities to meet achievement expectations. Students not meeting district/state identified minimum levels of performance must receive intensive instructional support in order to accelerate the student's rate of progress toward standards.

The areas of academic need and intervention strategies are identified through a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process. Multiple tiers of increasing intense instructional and instruction/intervention services are implemented to support student academic performance. Students needing remediation or intensive instructional support will be matched to strategic and intensive instruction/interventions based on screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments.

**e. Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) ([F.S. 1008.25\(4\)\(b\)](#))**

Any student who does not meet the District identified minimum levels of performance and/or who does not meet the identified minimum levels of performance on statewide assessments as defined by the Commissioner of Education, must be provided remediation. Students not meeting grade level expectations will receive a PMP that identifies instruction/intervention support through a problem-solving process. A PMP shall be developed in consultation with a parent/guardian and student progress will be monitored.

ELLs should be afforded the opportunity to acquire basic English language proficiency before inclusion in the school-wide PMP process. Typically, ELLs who have been in the ESOL program less than 2 years should not be included in the PMP process. ELLs who have been in the ESOL program more than 2 years should be included in the process just as a non-ELL student. An ELL committee is not required when assigning a PMP to an ELL.

The Individual Educational Plan (IEP) replaces the PMP for most Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students since the IEP includes the required elements of the PMP. The IEP must address intensive instructional and support services in the identified area(s) of deficiency.

Refer to the Pasco County MTSS Guidebook for further details.

**f. GRACE Program**

The Grace Program has been adopted to provide grace and compassion to students during the Covid pandemic. This program is for students who are behind in new credit and need the program to meet the 18 or 24 credit graduation requirement or to meet the promotion requirements to transition to high school from middle school. Students participating in the Grace Program would be extending their opportunities beyond the school day either on campus or at home.

### **Specific Student Eligibility Criteria**

Any student who is missing a new credit from 2019 to present or has a record of not meeting eligibility requirements for promotion to high school.

### **Student Admission Procedures**

1. The school counselor, student support assistant personnel, and administration will determine placement in the Grace Program.
2. In the Grace Program up to two new high school credits or middle school equivalent courses may be earned.
3. Additional credits will require approval by the High School Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer.
4. When a student is determined eligible, a meeting will be held with the student and parent/guardian.
5. The student will be scheduled into the program either through the school supported site-based program or through Pasco eSchool. Parents must be made aware of the expectations of attendance hours, and where the completion of the course will be done (on school site or at home).

### **School Site Program Requirements**

1. School site programs may be organized and held through extended school day or year programs.
2. With new credit, the teacher of record must be certified in the subject area of the new credit needed.
3. Student must complete 135 hours of seat time for a full one credit course, or 68 hours of seat time for a semester course. This is required by Florida Statute 1003.436. Schools must file verification of seat time completion in the student's cumulative folder.
4. Students will be enrolled in APEX as credit earning for the course.

### **Pasco eSchool Program Requirements**

1. Students may be scheduled through an extended day period or through extended school year.
2. The teacher of record must be certified in the subject area of the new credit needed.
3. Students should be enrolled in Pasco eSchool site 7004 or 7006 as a second school.
4. The school may provide an area for students to complete the work.
5. Pasco eSchool's coursework should support the students for this program.
6. Schools may issue a device to students if this is a need to complete the needed credit.
7. Students must be enrolled in a course with Pasco eSchool for a minimum of 14 days to earn semester credit.

### **g. Placement**

Any student transferring from another state or private school will be placed in a grade determined by the principal (or designee) of the receiving school.

### **h. Middle School Students Enrolled in High School Courses**

A student below grade 9 who is enrolled in a course listed in the State Course Code Directory grades 9-12 section, shall receive high school graduation credit upon successful completion of the course. That student shall be classified as a grade 9 student for that portion of the school day for which he/she is enrolled in the 9- 12 course. In the case of Algebra I, a high school course with a state EOC exam requirement, the state EOC exam/assessment or a comparative score on a state approved assessment must be passed in order to earn a Standard Diploma. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC, or earning a comparative score, did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade

calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

\*For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's GPA and/or yearlong grade. For students who do not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

#### **i. Multiple Births ([F.S. 1003.06](#))**

Multiple birth siblings who are assigned to the same grade level and school may be placed in the same classroom or separate classrooms if a request is made by the parents in writing within five (5) days before the first day of each school year or five (5) days after the first day the students enroll in the school if they transfer during the school year.

[F. S. 1003.06\(6\)](#) specifies that the provisions do not apply to the right or obligations of students with disabilities under [F.S. 1003.57](#) or under the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), regarding the individual placement decisions of the school district, or the removal of students pursuant to disciplinary policies.

After consulting with the teacher(s) involved at the end of the first grading period, the principal may review the siblings' placement. If it is determined that their placement is disruptive to the school, the principal may consider a more appropriate setting for the siblings.

A parent may appeal the principal's classroom placement of multiple birth siblings to the principal, in writing, within 5 days. The appeal will be forwarded to grade-level Assistant Superintendent for a final decision. During an appeal, the multiple birth siblings shall remain in the classroom chosen by the parent.

#### **j. Graduation Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement**

School personnel will identify those students at each grade level in grades 9 through 12 who have attained a cumulative grade point average at or below the minimum grade point average required for graduation pursuant to [F.S. 1003.4282\(6\)\(a\)](#).

At the end of each semester, the parent/guardian of each student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who has a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.5000 shall be notified that the student is at risk of not meeting the requirements for graduation. The notice shall contain an explanation of the policies the district school board has put in place to assist the student in meeting the grade point average requirement.

### **13. Student Rights for Instruction**

All public education courses shall be available to all students without regard to age, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, gender, disability, handicapping condition, pregnancy, parenthood, or marital status, political beliefs, social and family background, or for any other reason not related to his/her individual capabilities; however, this is not intended to eliminate the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) or exceptional education students with disabilities ([F.S. 1002.20](#)).

In accordance with State Board Education rules [6A-6.0904](#) and [6A-6.0908](#) and the District's Limited English Proficient Plan (LEP Plan), ELLs shall have equal access to appropriate instructional programming, and to programs other than ESOL. ELL students must be given equal access to the general curriculum, Advanced Placement, honor courses, and any special programs regardless of their English language proficiency. The general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements will be the basis of their curriculum; however, the instructor will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations in order to provide comprehensible

instruction at the learner's level of English acquisition. Instructional strategies and accommodations are required and must be documented in lesson plans to ensure equal opportunity to master the general curriculum and grade-level standards.

Pursuant to Florida statute, students have the right to access and parents have the right to enroll their student in a virtual education program.

Any student who believes that he/she has been denied participation in or access to an educational program or activity, or has otherwise been discriminated against, may file a grievance according to the procedure established in Board policy 5710.

#### **14. Transfer Students ([F.S. 1003.433](#) and [FAC 6A-1.09941](#))**

##### **a. Credit Transfer**

When students transfer into any Pasco County high schools from another district, country or private school, an official transcript will be obtained and credits for graduation will be approved by the principal (or designee).

The principal (or designee) may evaluate transferred credits to the advantage of the student in cases where other schools award fractional credits, credits issued for full year grades (no semester credit awarded), or not compatible with local course credit standards.

The District grade weighting system will apply to all courses identified by Pasco County Schools.

##### **b. Accredited Schools**

Credit from other recognized national, regional or state accredited schools will be automatically approved.

##### **c. Non-accredited Schools**

Credits from non-accredited schools, as well as foreign schools, will be evaluated on the basis of comparability to local courses in terms of course length and content; in some cases, communication with the previous school will be necessary, and a translation of transcripts required. Students transferring from another country shall receive English credit (Language Arts) for primary language study. English as it appears on a foreign transcript will be reflected as world language credit. Students transferring into a public school from a non-accredited school must be placed at the appropriate sequential course level. Performance at a minimum grade point average of 2.0000 in the placement validates the student's prior performance in that subject area. For example, a grade 11 transfer student may validate his English 1 and 2 credits taken at the sending school with a 2.0000 in English 3 at the receiving school. Students who do not meet a 2.0000, or choose not to continue to the next sequential level in a particular subject area (i.e., world languages), must have their credits validated using an approved alternative validation procedure listed in [FAC 6A-1.09941\(3\)](#).

##### **d. Home Education Students**

Students entering a Pasco County high school from a Home Education program shall be granted credits according to the type of documentation maintained and presented by the parent. Documentation may include a combination of official and unofficial transcripts from accredited or non-accredited schools, and/or a parent generated portfolio.

Credits and grades submitted on an official transcript from an accredited educational program shall be accepted at face value. Credits and grades submitted on an official transcript from a non-accredited educational program shall be validated by the end of the first grading period. Credits (not grades) submitted on an unofficial transcript or via a Home Education portfolio shall be validated by the end of the first grading period.

Alternative validation procedures shall be used when students do not demonstrate satisfactory performance during the first grading period. Validation procedures and alternative validation procedures for Home Education students are the same as those used for students transferring from another district, state, country or private school.

##### **e. Transfer of High School Credit [[F.S. 1003.25\(3\)](#) and [FAC 6A-1.09941](#)]**

Procedures for acceptance of transfer grades and credit(s) for students entering high school shall be as follows:

Credits and grades earned and offered for acceptance shall be based on official transcripts and shall be accepted at face value subject to validation if required by the receiving school's accreditation. If validation of the official transcript is deemed necessary, or if the student does not possess an official transcript or is a Home Education student, credits shall be validated through performance during the first grading period as outlined in subsection (2) of this rule.

Validation of credits shall be based on performance in classes at the receiving school. A student transferring into a school shall be placed at the appropriate sequential course level and should have a minimum grade point average of 2.0000 at the end of the first grading period. Students who do not meet this requirement shall have credits validated using the Alternative Validation Procedure, as outlined in subsection (3) of this rule.

Alternative Validation Procedure (also applies to out of country transfers and unaccompanied youth without school records/transcripts). If validation based on performance as described above is not satisfactory, then any one of the following alternatives shall be used for validation purposes as determined by the teacher, principal, and parent:

Portfolio evaluation by the superintendent or designee;

Written recommendation by a Florida certified teacher selected by the parent and approved by the principal;

Demonstrated performance in courses taken through Dual Enrollment or at other public or private accredited schools;

Demonstrated proficiencies on nationally-normed standardized subject area assessments;

Demonstrated proficiencies on the State ELA and/or state End of Course Assessment; or

Written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school.

Students must be provided at least ninety (90) days from date of transfer to prepare for assessments outlined in paragraphs (3)(d) and (e) of this rule if required.

#### **f. Requirements for Graduation for Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Transfer Students**

Students who enter a Florida public school in grades 11 or 12 from out-of-state or from out-of-country shall not be required to spend additional time in a Florida public high school in order to meet the Florida high school course requirements if the student has met all requirements of the school district, state or country from which he/she is transferring.

Florida course requirements shall not be retroactive for a transfer student provided that the student has been promoted to grades 11 or 12 and has met all requirements of the school district, state, or country from which he/she is transferring. To receive a standard high school diploma, a transfer student must earn an unweighted 2.0000 grade point average on a 4.0000 scale for all courses taken in District or on all courses taken in grades 9-12, whichever is to the benefit of the student, and pass the Grade 10 ELA assessment required in [F.S. 1008.22\(3\)](#) or an alternative assessment as described in [F.S. 1008.22\(9\)](#).

If a student's transcript indicates credit in high school reading or ELA II or III, the student must take and pass the grade 10 ELA assessment or earn a concordant score in order to earn a Standard Diploma.

If a student transfers from out of country, out of state, a private school or a home education program and the student's transcript shows credit in Algebra I, the student must pass the statewide, standardized Algebra I EOC assessment in order to earn a standard high school diploma unless the student earned a comparative score, passed the statewide assessment in Algebra I administered by the transferring entity, or passed the statewide mathematics assessment the transferring entity uses to satisfy the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C s.6301. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level, were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC or earning a comparative score for these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

\*For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's GPA and/or yearlong grade. For students who do not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

For more information on concordant scores, reference the link to the chart in the section titled "Additional Graduation Information".

**g. Awarding Yearlong Grades in State EOC Courses**

When a student transfers from a Florida school district with a full credit in a state EOC course but takes the EOC assessment in Pasco County, when it is a benefit to the student, the school will reach out to the transferring county to request the yearlong grade be calculated as determined by the state and to provide an updated transcript with the new grade. In the event that the transferring county will not calculate a yearlong grade in a state EOC course, the yearlong grade will be calculated by Pasco County. The yearlong grade will then be assigned to the prior school district.

**h. Assistance to Transitioning Students from Military Families [\[F.S. 1003.05\(03\)\]](#)**

Dependent children of active duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such programs even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned, the parent or guardian of the student must assume the responsibility for transporting the student to that school.

## B. High School Grading

### 1. Grade Point Averages (GPA)

#### a. Computation of an Unweighted GPA ([F.S. 1003.437](#))

The unweighted GPA is used to meet the high school graduation GPA requirement. To properly compute an unweighted GPA, the following formula is used. Middle school students will earn a cumulative GPA for all high school courses in which they earn a grade. The GPA will become part of each student's high school records.

GPA	=	4 (# of A grades)
	+	3 (# of B grades)
	+	2 (# of C grades)
	+	1 (# of D grades)
	+	0 (# of F grades)
	÷	Total Number of Semester Grades

#### b. Computation of a Weighted GPA

Honors, identified Pre-International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge Pre-AICE receive quality points as follows per credit earned:

A	=	4.5
B	=	3.5
C	=	2.5
D	=	1.5
F	=	0

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge AICE and Dual Enrollment courses [F.S. 1007.271](#) receive quality points as follows per credit earned:

A	=	5
B	=	4
C	=	3
D	=	2
F	=	0

If a yearlong course is passed, and one of the semester grades is an F, then the final grade which is the average of the two semesters, will be doubled for GPA calculations. This applies to all grade point average calculations included in this section. All calculations are carried to the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal place and rounded to the 4<sup>th</sup> decimal place. Pass/fail grades are not calculated in the GPA calculation. This applies to all grade point average calculations included in this section.

#### c. Criteria for Participation in Interscholastic Activities

Interscholastic extracurricular activities are those organized student activities between, among or within schools that are carried on outside the curriculum or regular course of study in school. These activities may involve displays of talent that include, but are not limited to, sports, speech, debate, and fine arts interscholastic competitions or festivals and career and technical student organization activities [[F.S. 1006.15\(2\)](#)].

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student must maintain an unweighted cumulative grade point average of 2.0000 or above on a 4.0000 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by [F.S. 1006.15\(3\)\(a\)](#). The required GPA for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester is checked on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, and eligibility cannot change after (per FHSAA). For 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, eligibility is checked on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the second semester, and cannot change after this date (per FHSAA).

#### **d. Class Rank GPA for Standard Diploma Students**

The class rank GPA:

All semester grades earned in all courses completed for high school credit will be included in the Class Rank GPA.

GPA will be carried out to the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal place and rounded to the 4<sup>th</sup> decimal place.

#### **e. Graduation GPA**

The achievement of a cumulative unweighted grade point average of 2.0000 on a 4.0000 scale is calculated for all courses taken for high school credit, unless replaced according to grade forgiveness policy.

#### **f. Grade Replacement and Forgiveness**

The GPA computation will be based on all courses taken by the student unless the grade has been forgiven by retake. Semester grades will be averaged for the GPA calculations. Any grade, C or higher, for a course repeated for credit (regular school, virtual school, ESY, or adult education) will replace the former grade in GPA calculation; however, all course outcomes will still be documented in the cumulative record and automated system. Grade forgiveness for all required courses will be limited to replacing a semester grade of D or F with a semester grade of C or higher earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. Grade forgiveness for elective courses shall be limited to replacing a semester grade of D or F with a semester grade of C or higher earned subsequently by retaking the same or comparable course or another course. In addition, all courses taken must be included in the GPA calculation unless the grade has been forgiven by retake [\[F.S. 1003.4282\(5\)\]](#).

The only exception to these grade replacement and forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle grades who takes any high school course for high school credit and earns a grade of C, D, or F, which are eligible for grade forgiveness [\[F.S. 1003.4282\(5\)\]](#).

In all cases of grade forgiveness, only the new grade shall be used in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Any course grade not replaced according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required for graduation [\[F.S. 1003.4282\(5\)\]](#). All grades will be documented in the cumulative record. Only in very rare instances are students with grave extenuating circumstances able to retake a Dual Enrollment course a second time for grade replacement as determined by Pasco Hernando State College. All grades will be documented in the cumulative record.

## **2. Grades and Grading**

### **a. Grading Criteria Provided at the Beginning of the Grading Period**

Students and parents will be advised of the grading criteria employed in the school and in each course at the beginning of the grading period. Students and parents are also to be advised of district-wide standards for promotion and graduation as applied to the student's grade placement. Grades will be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria.

### **b. State of Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment**

The State of Florida offers EOC assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, U.S. History, and Biology I to any student who requests to sit for the exam. Students are not required to be enrolled or have been enrolled in a state EOC course in order to participate in the assessment. Students who earn a passing score will be awarded credit. Passing of the Algebra 1 EOC or earning a comparative score on a state approved exam is required to earn a standard high school diploma.

Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level, were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC or earning a comparative score. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

The State of Florida requires students who enroll in Algebra I, Geometry, U.S. History, and Biology I to sit for the state EOC assessment. The grade from the state EOC assessment will count for 30% of a student's final grade. The subject area grade for students required to take a state EOC assessment will be computed in the manner outlined below. For any yearlong course that requires a State EOC, the semester grades will be excluded from the GPA calculations regardless of whether or not the student takes the assessment. The grade will be awarded in the form of a year-long grade that is used for the GPA calculation. If a student enrolled in a state EOC assessed course does not earn a valid score on the State EOC as a result of invalidation or fails to take the EOC on any regular or makeup dates provided during the term the student is enrolled in the course, the student will have a 0% entered into the student information system as the student's EOC grade for that course and the 0% will be applied as 30% of the yearlong course grade until the student sits for the EOC and produces a valid score.

For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that included a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

**1. Grading calculation for Courses Assessed with a State of Florida EOC Assessment counting for 30% of their final course grade:**

Course Length	Computing SEM 1 AVG	Computing SEM 2 AVG	Converted Final Year Grade Based on Achievement Level*
Yearlong	QTR 1 percentage grade x 50% + QTR 2 percentage grade x 50%	QTR 3 percentage grade x 50% + QTR 4 percentage grade x 50%	SEM 1 percentage grade x 35% + SEM 2 percentage grade x 35% + EOC x 30%

Transfer students who have Geometry, United States History, or Biology credit on their transcript from outside of Pasco County Schools will not be required to participate in the State EOC for the corresponding subject unless the student takes a semester in Pasco County.

\* Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Civics, Biology, Geometry and/or U.S. History during the 19-20 school year were not required to take the state EOC. For these students the two semester grades will count in the academic history and GPA calculation since there will be no 30% calculation.

2. The following grading scale will be used for calculating the 30% State EOC component of the year-long grade in the student information system:

Achievement Level	EOC Converted Grade
5	100%
4	89%
3	79%
2	69%
1	59%

**c. Grading Scale**

The following scale will be used to determine report card grades for each quarter ([F.S. 1003.437](#)):

Grade	Percent Range	Definition
A	90 – 100	Outstanding Progress
B	80 – 89	Above Average Progress
C	70 – 79	Average Progress
D	60 – 69	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0 – 59	Failure

**d. District Level Assessments**

A student assessment that measures mastery of the standard(s) is required. For any course with content that is not aligned with a statewide or other approved assessment, the student will be expected to take a District Final that will account for 10% of the student's semester grade in the semester in which they take the assessment. District Finals will be entered into the student information system as reported by the assessment platform. If a student is enrolled in a course that is aligned to a District Final and they have been enrolled in the course for at least 50% of the length of the course, they are required to take the District Final (unless otherwise exempt).

If a student does not meet the required length of enrollment in a course to take a District Final, it is up to the discretion of the teacher and administration of the school to determine what alternative will be given in lieu of the District Final for the course. Students enrolled in virtual (including APEX and eSchool courses) or dual enrollment courses will not take District Finals. However, these students will complete assessments aligned to the course content and approved by the principal or designee. Students enrolled in a course aligned to a District Final at the end of the 19-20 school year were not required to take a District Final. Since these students did not receive a District Final result, the second semester grade will be computed as the average of the quarter three and quarter four grade.

**1. Grading Calculation in Courses NOT Assessed with a State of Florida EOC Assessment**

Aligned Assessment	Course Length	Computing SEM 1 AVG	Computing SEM 2 AVG
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No District Final	Semester/Yearlong	QTR 1 grade x 50% + QTR 2 grade x 50%	QTR 3 grade x 50% + QTR 4 grade x 50%
District Final	Yearlong	QTR 1 grade x 50% + QTR 2 grade x 50%	QTR 3 grade x 45% + QTR 4 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%
District Final	Semester	QTR 1 grade x 45% + QTR 2 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%	QTR 3 grade x 45% + QTR 4 grade x 45% + District Final x 10%

For both semester and yearlong high school courses that require a District Final, the semester grades for the course will be used for GPA calculations and credit earning decisions.

**2. The following grading conversion will be used for the assignment of District Final grades in the student information system:**

District Final % Correct	Achievement Band	District Final Converted Grade based on Achievement Band
80% - 100%	5	100%
60% - 79%	4	89%
40% - 59%	3	79%
20% - 39%	2	69%
0.01% - 19%	1	59%

If a student earns a 0% on a District Final, the student will have a 0% entered into the student information system as the student's District Final grade for that course (unless the principal approves that extenuating circumstances prevented the student from taking/completing the District Final).

#### **e. Averaging Grades**

A quarter or semester grade of an F may be averaged with a higher numerical value, not to exceed 59, when circumstances concerning the educational welfare of the student are warranted. The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decision regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures. Documentation is required.

For all students, if a percentage grade is not available after good faith effort and the only available grade is a letter grade, the following scale will be used in order to assign a percentage grade (i.e., transfer, prior year grades, etc.).

A= 100%

B= 89%

C= 79%

D= 69%

F= 59%

#### **f. Failing a Semester of a Full-Year Course - Receiving One-Half Credit [\[F.S. 1003.436\(2\)\]](#)**

A student enrolled in a full-year course shall receive one-half (.5) credit if the student successfully completes the first half or the second half of a full-year course but fails to successfully complete the other half of the course and the averaging of the grades obtained in each half would not result in a passing grade for the year.

**g. Failing a Semester of a Full-Year Course - Receiving Full Credit [F.S. 1003.436(2)]**

A student enrolled in a full-year course shall receive a full credit if the student successfully completes either the first or the second half of a full-year course but fails to successfully complete the other half of the course and the averaging of the grades obtained in each half would result in a passing grade. In the event that credit is awarded in the form of a year-long grade, the original semester grades will be excluded from the GPA calculation. The year-long grade will then be used in the GPA calculation. When a student is enrolled in an EOC course, consideration should be given to the impact of the EOC exam on the year-long grade. Refer to the chart in 2a under Grades and Grading.

**h. Report Card Grades and Attendance Reporting [F.S. 1003.33(1)]**

Each district school board shall establish and publish policies requiring the content and regular issuance of student report cards for all elementary school, middle school, and high school students. These report cards must clearly depict and grade:

- a. The student's academic performance in each class or course, which in grades 1 through 12 must be based upon examinations as well as written papers, class participation, and other academic performance criteria, and must include the student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level. Students are to receive grades in all courses in which they are enrolled.
- B. The student's conduct and behavior.
- c. The student's attendance, including absences and tardiness.
- d. A student's final report card for a school year shall contain a statement indicating end-of-the-year status regarding performance or nonperformance at grade level, acceptable or unacceptable behavior and attendance, and promotion or non-promotion.

District school boards shall not allow schools to exempt students from academic performance requirements based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement.

**i. Grades in Conduct**

Grades in conduct are to reflect the student's progress independent of academic achievement. Standards for grading in these areas are to be explained to the students. Conduct implies the degree to which a student relates to others, to himself, and to the environment in socially acceptable ways. Students are to receive grades in all courses in which they are enrolled in a secondary school. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory conduct grade without prior parental contact.

**j. Changing a Grade**

The teacher, in collaboration with the principal, will make the final decisions regarding grade changes, in accordance with grade change procedures. If the principal of a school feels it is necessary to change a student's grade in any subject, the principal shall consult with the teacher who issued the original grade, give the reasons in writing for the necessary change to the teacher, and note the reason(s) in the student reporting system. If a change in grade is made, it shall be recorded as the principal's grade and not the teacher's grade. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified of all such changes.

**k. Adult Education Grade Replacement**

High school students may enroll in an adult education course to replace a D or F earned in the traditional high school setting. In the event that a student fails both semesters of a course and retakes a semester of the course in adult education, and the two numerical grades average 60 or higher, the two semesters will be averaged to award a yearlong grade.

If the two numerical grades average 60 or higher, the student will receive a passing grade. Only courses with the same course code number may be averaged for a year-long grade. An exception would be in the case of the grade earned in a regular course being averaged with an advanced course, the resulting year-long grade will be assigned to the regular course code number.

### **I. Dual Enrollment Grade Replacement at (other post-secondary institutions too)**

Each Dual Enrollment articulation agreement outlines the guidance for grade replacement. Please refer to the specific articulation agreement for the institution's policies.

### **m. Grade Level Status [F.S. 1003.33(1)]**

Each report card must include the student's performance or nonperformance at his or her grade level.

### **n. Grading English Language Learners**

ELLs will be graded on the general education standards, benchmarks, and course content requirements; however, the instructor will provide modified assignments, differentiation strategies, and instructional and assessment accommodations in order to provide comprehensible instruction at the learner's level of English acquisition and give the student the opportunity to learn content even with limited English proficiency.

English Language Learners will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades if ESOL strategies and accommodations appropriate to the English proficiency level of the student have not been implemented and documented in lesson plans as required by the Florida Consent Decree. Additionally, ELLs will not receive unsatisfactory or failing grades based solely on lack of English language proficiency. In order to provide comprehensible instruction and give ELLs access to content and the opportunity to learn, the ELA, content area, and elective teachers will provide differentiation strategies, assignment modifications, and instructional and assessment accommodations in accordance with the Florida Consent Decree.

## **3. Student Recognition for Honor Roll Status**

### **a. Honor Roll Student Selection**

#### **1. School Quarter Honor Roll Determination**

Schools may recognize students each quarter for academic achievement. Dual Enrollment, and FLVS courses do not earn quarter grades, and are therefore not available for inclusion in the determination of honor roll status for quarter grading periods. Pasco eSchool courses may be included in Quarter Honor Roll and grades will be shared with schools by the Pasco eSchool administration. Quarter Honor Roll Recognitions will not be awarded to students who earn a quarter grade of D or F in any of their courses. If a school chooses to offer quarter honor roll the levels and rules of honor roll in sub section B below will apply.

#### **2. School Semester Honor Roll Determination**

All grades posted for the semester will be used in the honor roll calculation. Students enrolled in one or more courses through Pasco eSchool, FLVS or dual enrollment may be eligible for honor roll recognition provided that grades are received and entered into the student information system by the time report cards are issued for brick and mortar courses. Students must have at least six (6) grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits (WKTHS/KRAI seven (7) grades or 3.5 credits) or posted for the current semester or be a full-time dual enrollment student to be eligible for the semester honor roll designation.

#### **3. Superintendent Honor Roll Determination**

A Superintendent Honor Roll designation will be awarded after final report cards are issued to students who meet the following criteria:

All grades issued must be an "A" for each quarter/semester or virtual course segment.

Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits posted or be a full-time dual enrollment student for each semester to be eligible.

Virtual or dual enrollment courses may be eligible for honor roll recognition provided that grades are received and entered into the student information system by the time report cards are issued for brick and mortar courses.

Transfer grades from other districts do not qualify.

Charter and Home Education students are not included.

### **b. Levels of Honor Roll**

Schools will award honor status each semester to students who qualify for one of the following three levels of honor roll designations. Calculations will be carried to the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal place and rounded to the 4<sup>th</sup> decimal place. Schools awarding quarter honor roll should use the rules below when making their determinations. Please note that Pasco eSchool quarter grades are not in the student information system but are shared with schools by the Pasco eSchool administration. A student enrolled in a career dual enrollment course may not be eligible for honor roll if they have not completed the clock hour course at the time of recognition.

**Straight A Honor Roll:** Awarded to students who have an “A” in all of the courses completed during the semester, with grades documented in the student information system. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits (WKTHS/KRAI seven (7) grades or 3.5 credits) posted or be a full-time dual enrollment student for the current semester to be eligible.

**A/B Honor Roll:** Awarded to students who have an “A” or a “B” in all of the courses completed during the semester, with grades documented in the student information system. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits (WKTHS/KRAI seven (7) grades or 3.5 credits) posted or be a full-time dual enrollment student for the current semester to be eligible.

**Honor Roll:** Awarded to students with a semester weighted GPA at or above 3.2000 based on grades documented in the student information system. Students must have a minimum of six grades or a number of grades equivalent to three (3) credits (WKTHS/KRAI seven (7) grades or 3.5 credits) posted or be a full-time dual enrollment student for the current semester to be eligible. Students cannot have earned a grade of D or F in any of their semester courses to be eligible.

#### **4. Reporting Student Progress**

##### **a. Parent/Guardian Notification**

Parents or guardians of each student will be notified annually of the progress of the student toward achieving the state and district identified minimum levels of performance in ELA, reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies and the student’s results on each statewide assessment. Evaluation of each student’s progress will be based upon the student’s classroom work, observations performance, tests, district and state assessments and other relevant information.

Parents or guardians must be notified when, during a reporting period, it is apparent that the student is failing or in danger of failing. In addition to report cards and progress reports, notifications may include letters, documented telephone calls, emails, the electronic grade book, or parent conferences. Every effort will be made to provide communication in the child’s/parent’s home language. No student shall receive an unsatisfactory conduct grade if parents have not been notified. The following institutions shall report grades for students enrolled in their courses: Pasco eSchool, and Florida Virtual School (FLVS). Grades for Dual Enrollment and FLVS courses will not appear on the report card. Semester grades for Pasco eSchool courses will appear on the report cards issued at the conclusion of each semester. Students enrolled in online courses shall have their grades and progress reported electronically.

##### **b. Supplemental Reporting Instruments**

With the approval of the superintendent, or designee, schools may develop additional or supplementary reporting instruments, which may be used in conjunction with the standard report card.

##### **c. Report Card Publication Schedule**

Grades are reported to parents/students’ grades K-12, via progress reports and report cards, four (4) to eight (8) times per school year. Virtual and Dual Enrollment courses have semester-based reporting periods.

#### **C. High School Attendance**

### **1. Instruction Requirement for Credit Earning (F.S. 1003.436)**

A student must receive a minimum of 135 hours of instruction (120 hours if on block schedule) and have completed all course requirements as specified in the Student Progression Plan (SPP) and the approved course description before credit may be earned for the course. However, any student who has not been in attendance for 135 hours may be awarded credit if the student has demonstrated mastery of the course student performance standards. One-half (.5) credit courses will use one-half (.5) of the hours as specified for a one (1) credit course.

All high school students enrolled in the Pasco District school system are obligated to attend courses regularly and punctually and to satisfy all course requirements. Participation in classroom activities is an important part of the credit earned in any course.

### **2. No Academic Exceptions Based on Attendance [F.S. 1003.33(2)]**

Schools shall not exempt students from academic performance requirements, such as final exams, based on practices or policies designed to encourage student attendance. A student's attendance record may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirements.

### **3. Part-Time Students**

#### **a. Full-Time Enrollment Requirement for District Students**

All District secondary students must be enrolled on a full-time basis, unless they meet the requirements for part-time enrollment listed below. Full-time status is defined as six (6) courses/three (3) high school credits or by being enrolled as a full-time dual enrollment student. Seven (7) courses/three and half (3.5) credits are required per semester at WKTHS/KRAI.

#### **b. Part-Time Requirement**

A part-time student is any student not enrolled full-time.

Principals may permit 5th year seniors, eligible for ESE services, to enroll part-time with no School Board or District office approval required. These students may take reading or additional courses to meet the credit or 2.0000 GPA requirement.

Charter schools, private schools and other non-public full-time schools must have a formal agreement with the school district for students to attend a district school on a part-time basis. This agreement must include a description of services to be provided by the School District and must be approved by the School District.

Home Education students may apply to attend their zoned school on a part-time basis (for access to courses required for participation in extra-curricular activities, with admission consideration restricted to the student's zoned school or by following School Board policy to attend outside the zoned attendance area. The home education program is the primary provider of the student's education. The part-time student is not eligible for district recognition programs, graduation ceremonies, class ranking, honor roll, or to attend classes at multiple brick and mortar campuses.

Transition Education program students who are 18-22 years old may attend part-time or full-time.

Students who complete an online course prior to the end of the semester will not be required to enroll in an additional course in order to maintain full-time status.

Seniors are expected to maintain full-time status during their senior year of enrollment, regardless of the number of credits the student has earned toward graduation. Senior students are not eligible for part-time enrollment unless prior approval has been granted by the Superintendent or designee. Full-time status is defined as six (6) courses/three (3) high school credits or by being enrolled as a full-time dual enrollment student. Seven (7) courses/three and half (3.5) credits are required per semester at WKTHS/KRAI.

All other students who desire to enroll on a part time basis must have approval from the Superintendent or designee.

#### **4. Withdrawal After Age 16**

A student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. Public school students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The school district must notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's school counselor or other school personnel must conduct an exit interview with the student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the student in school. The student must be informed of opportunities to continue his or her education in a different environment, including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students enrolled.

#### **5. Student Re-Enrollment: Board Policy**

The Superintendent shall have the authority to assign a student aged 16 or above who has previously been withdrawn from school to adult education or an alternative educational program prior to returning to a regular high school. This assignment shall be based on the joint recommendation of the high school principal and a district level committee (directors of Student Support Programs & Services, and the Supervisor for Graduation Enhancement Program or designee). Factors to be considered include age of student, credits earned, discipline history, current attitude, and available transportation. Upon successful participation in the alternative placement, the student shall be eligible to return to the regular high school. Students who choose to attend voluntary programs at one of the education academies may transfer back to their zoned school at the semester to continue a traditional education program provided that the student is on track to graduate. Students who choose to attend a voluntary program at one of the education academies will be considered a student of their zoned school for the purpose of senior activities and will be allowed to attend those activities provided they meet the same eligibility requirements as any other senior student.

\* Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for unexcused/excused absence, truancy and make-up work policies.

## D. High School Graduation Information

### 1. Graduation Program Option Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9

For the most up to date FLDOE graduation flyer visit: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/>.

All students will receive information on the consequences of failure to receive a standard diploma, including the potential ineligibility for financial assistance at post-secondary educational institutions [F.S. 1003.433]. (moved from another section)

### 2. Diploma and Certificate of Completion Options

#### a. Standard Diploma (F.S. 1003.4282)

To earn a standard diploma, students must earn the state and district prescribed credits through regular or access standards required for graduation, including those requiring State of Florida EOC exams. Students must pass the required Reading/ELA and Math tests as defined by their 9th grade cohort graduation plan. In addition, students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0000 on a 4.0000 scale. Refer to *Graduation Program Option*

*Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9* for specific graduation information. Students may earn a Standard Diploma with a Scholar and/or Merit designation by meeting additional requirements also outlined in section V-D, 7.

#### 1. Online Requirement

The following options will be offered for students to satisfy the state mandated online course requirement (s.1002.45). Completion of an online course offered by the Florida Virtual School, a virtual provider approved by the State Board of Education, a high school, or an online dual enrollment course.

Completion of a course in which student earns a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology that is identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding list or passing of the information technology certification exam without enrolling in or completing the corresponding course.

A school or district cannot require a student to take the online course outside of the school day or in addition to a student's courses for a given semester.

#### 2. Industry Certification and College Credit

Every attempt will be made to ensure a student earning a standard diploma has the opportunity to enroll in a course that provides the potential to earn an industry certification and/or college credit prior to graduation. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, all juniors will have the opportunity to take an English Course through AP, AICE, DE or IB that will afford the potential to earn college credit.

#### b. Cambridge AICE Diploma

This diploma option is available at select schools in the district. Please refer to the [Pasco Pathways School Choice Catalog](#) for more information. Students who maintain a 2.0000 or higher unweighted cumulative GPA, meet all the State of Florida's assessment requirements, earn 24 credits under the following graduation plan, **and** complete specific AICE curriculum coursework including a successful score on AICE exams, are eligible to earn an AICE Diploma in addition to Florida's Standard Diploma. AICE curriculum coursework includes successful scores on a specified number of AICE Exams, as determined by Cambridge International.

#### AICE Graduation Plan:

Four English credits

Four Mathematics credits

One of which must be Pre-AICE Math 1 or equivalent and one of which must be Pre-AICE Math 2 or equivalent

Three Science credits

One of which must be Pre-AICE Biology or equivalent Three Social Science credits

One of which must be AICE U.S. History AS Level or equivalent and one of which must be AICE Global Perspectives and Research AS Level

Two World Languages credits

Eight Elective credits

An AICE Diploma satisfies the requirements of a Standard Diploma.

Students who exit the Cambridge program must meet all state of Florida graduation requirements in order to earn a Standard Diploma.

AICE students may earn the Standard Diploma with a Scholar and/or Merit designation by meeting additional requirements as outlined in *Graduation Program Option Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9*.

### **c. International Baccalaureate Diploma**

This diploma option is available at select schools in the district. Please follow the [Pasco Pathways School Choice catalog for more information](#). Students who successfully complete the IB curriculum including all requirements of the IB Core\*, maintain a 2.0000 unweighted cumulative GPA, meet all the IB and State of Florida's assessment requirements and earn 24- credits under the following graduation plan requirements are eligible to earn an IB Diploma in addition to Florida's Standard Diploma.

#### **IB Graduation Plan:\*\***

Two Pre-IB elective credits (as determined by the school's course plan)

One IB elective credit

One IB Theory of Knowledge credit

Four English credits

Four Mathematics credits (plus the Algebra I credit prior to 9th grade)

Four Science credits

Four Social Science credits

Four World Language credits

\*The IB Core includes the following:

Creativity-Action-Service

Extended Essay

Theory of Knowledge (as noted above)

\*\*Courses and course sequence are those determined under the school's authorization with the International Baccalaureate Organization and taken face-to-face on the school campus.

IB Diploma requirements **do not** include the following Standard Diploma credit requirements:

One online course

Economics with Financial Literacy

U.S. Government

One Fine Arts credit

Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE)

An IB Diploma satisfies the requirements of a Standard Diploma.

Students who exit the IB program must meet all State of Florida graduation requirements in order to earn a Standard Diploma.

IB students may earn the Standard Diploma with a Scholar and/or Merit designation by meeting additional requirements as outlined in *Graduation Program Option Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9*.

### **d. College Placement Test Eligible Certificate of Completion [F.S. 1003.433(2)(b)]**

Students who meet all requirements for a standard high school diploma except earning a passing score on state required assessments will be allowed, upon receipt of a *Certificate of Completion*, to take a standardized assessment approved by the Florida Department of Education and be admitted to remedial or credit courses at a state community college. The transcript will reflect the designation “College Placement Test Eligible.” Students should be advised to contact the state community college to be informed of the opportunities available to them upon receiving the College Placement Test Eligible Certificate of Completion.

**e. Certificate of Completion**

A school district may award a certificate of completion to a student when the student earns the required 24 credits ([s. 1003.4282, F.S.](#)) or the required 18 credits under the ACCEL option ([s. 1002.3\(5\), F.S.](#)), but fails to:

pass the assessments required under [s. 1008.22\(3\), F.S.](#), and/or  
achieve a 2.0 GPA.

A student who is otherwise entitled to a certificate of completion may elect to remain in high school either as a full-time or part-time student for up to one additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy the student’s identified deficiencies.

**f. State of Florida High School Diploma (GED)**

The State of Florida High School Diploma (GED) is a voluntary option through Adult Education for students who would have been seniors based on their cohort class, or that are age appropriate, or under unusual circumstances. Students 16 years and older may opt to transfer from high school and enroll in Adult Education to earn the State of Florida High School Diploma (GED).

**g.** English Language Learners (ELLs) who by the end of grade 12 fail to pass the Grade 10 State ELA Assessment (or upon transition to Florida Assessments, ELA Assessments), or EOC shall be provided appropriate programming as 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors.

**3. Accelerated Graduation Options [1002.3105](#)**

Articulated acceleration shall be available and will serve to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements associated with a diploma or increase the depth of study available for a particular subject. A student may choose to graduate in less than eight (8) semesters through either the 24 or 18 credit options.

As set forth in state law, students in grades 6-12 will be provided with information describing graduation options, including the respective curriculum requirements for each option annually. A student, with parental or guardian consent, may select one of the graduation options at any time during grades 9-12. If the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, the student may select the accelerated high school graduation option with or without the written consent of his/her parent or guardian.

An acceleration plan must specify the student’s proposed program of study for each semester with the anticipated graduation date. A copy must be filed in the student’s cumulative record with the student’s Senior Graduation Plan. Additional credits for acceleration may be earned through Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Cambridge, IB, Credit Acceleration Program (CAP), Pasco eSchool, Florida Virtual School courses or other recognized accredited programs.

Students who choose the accelerated option must remain enrolled full time (3 high school credits per semester or 6 courses per semester, at WKTHS and KRAI 7 courses and 3.5 credits are required for full time status, full time dual enrollment) regardless of the number of credits earned towards graduation.

**4. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Substitutions to Fulfill Graduation Requirements**

**a. Job Preparatory Program Substitutions:**

Any student in grades 9-12 who enrolls in, and satisfactorily completes, a selected job preparatory program may substitute credit for a portion of the required four (4) credits in English, four (4) credits in mathematics, and three (3) credits in science. The credit substituted for English, mathematics, or science earned through the career and technical education job preparatory

program shall be on a curriculum equivalency basis. Career and technical course substitutions shall not exceed two (2) credits in each subject area. In addition, a program that has been used to substitute in one subject area may not be used to substitute for any other subject area.

**b. Industry Certification Course Substitutions ([F.S. 1003.4282](#))**

Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year, upon successful attainment of a qualifying industry certification, students would be eligible for substitution credit in mathematics and/or science. Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute up to 2 math credits but NOT for Algebra 1 or Geometry. Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute up to 1 Science credit but NOT for Biology 1. One qualifying industry certification attainment equates to one substitution credit. A student would need to earn three distinct industry certifications to earn the maximum three substitution credits.

Career and technical education courses may be modified for students with disabilities pursuing a standard diploma via Access Points [[SBE 6A-6.0312\(2\)](#)]. Modifications to basic course shall not include modifications to the curriculum frameworks or student performance standards. When modifying vocational courses, the particular outcomes and student performance standards, which a student must master to earn credit must be specified on the student's IEP. Modified career and technical education courses may be used to meet the requirements of a standard diploma via access points.

**5. High School Credit Earned Prior to entering Grade 9**

A course designated in the Course Code Directory as grade 9 through 12, which is taken prior to entering grade 9, may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements or Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. These courses will be flagged with a "9" and will count in the student's cumulative GPA.

**6. Recognition and Designation for Standard Diploma Students**

Graduating standard diploma students will receive Cum Laude status and recognition, as determined by the weighted Class Rank GPA based on the following levels of achievement:

*Cum Laude* 3.2000 - 3.7999

*Magna Cum Laude* 3.8000 - 4.1999

*Summa Cum Laude* 4.2000+

All calculations will be calculated to the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal place and rounded to 4<sup>th</sup> decimal place at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester (or its equivalent for 18-Credit/3-Year students).

**Graduation Ceremonies**

*Cum Laude* students will be recognized upon graduation. The following methods may be used: cords, medallions, diploma seals, highlighting the names in the program, and/or permitting representative *Summa Cum Laude* candidates to deliver speeches. Recognition of honor societies is optional.

**Valedictorian and Salutatorian for Standard Diploma Students**

**a. Membership Requirement in Graduation Class for Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Membership in a graduation class will be determined by the selection of a diploma option and progress toward the diploma option. To be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian:

A standard diploma student (18- or 24- Credit Diploma Options) must meet the minimum full-time enrollment criteria for their school (6 courses/3 credits) in the same Pasco County high school during each of the last four semesters prior to graduation\*,

\*7 courses/3.5 credits are required each semester at WKTHS and KRAI to be considered full-time. Full-time dual enrollment students meet the full-time enrollment criteria.

and

24-Credit Diploma Option students must have been a member of the graduating class in the same school for each of the four semesters prior to graduation,

or

18-Credit Diploma Option students must have been a member of the graduating class in the same school for each of the four semesters prior to graduation, have been working from an acceleration plan and be on track for graduation.

**b. Valedictorian\***

The valedictorian will be that student who meets the membership requirements as identified above and has the highest weighted grade point average (GPA) for courses approved by Pasco County Schools or credit based on Class Rank GPA.

Full-time Dual Enrollment students and students on school approved Acceleration Plans will be eligible for this recognition if they are included in the class rank and meet the membership requirements.

In calculating the valedictorian for the graduating class, the student with the highest weighted GPA after seven semesters will be the valedictorian. In the event that a 3-Year graduation plan student has the same or higher weighted GPA as the 4- Year graduation plan student, the student(s) will be classified as co-valedictorian(s).

**c. Salutatorian\***

The salutatorian will be that student who meets the membership requirements as identified above and has the second highest weighted grade point average (GPA) for courses approved by the District School Board for credit based on Class Rank GPA.

Full-time Dual Enrollment students and students on school-approved Acceleration Plans will be eligible for this recognition if they are included in the class rank and meet the membership requirements.

In calculating the salutatorian for the graduating class, the second highest weighted GPA after 7 semesters will be the salutatorian. In the event that a 3-Year graduation plan student has the same or higher weighted GPA as the 4-Year graduation plan student, the students will be classified as co-salutatorians.

\*If a student who is receiving the recognition of Valedictorian or Salutatorian is the sole earner of this recognition and is not on track to graduate by the deadline date the school set to inform students and parents or guardians of students who will not graduate, the recognition will be moved to the next student with the next highest weighted GPA based on the 7<sup>th</sup> semester freeze.

**d. Tied Ranks**

In the event of tied ranks for valedictorian and/or salutatorian, the principal shall award co- valedictorian and/or co-salutatorian positions.

**e. Weighted Class Rank GPA**

Refer to section V-B (1).

**f. IB and AICE Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The International Baccalaureate and Cambridge AICE programs will designate their own valedictorian and salutatorian based on the Class Rank GPA, of its members whose membership in the IB and AICE program meet the criteria outlined in section V-D(6)(a) Membership Requirement.

The Class Rank calculation for the IB and AICE program will be a district-wide class rank based on the total senior graduating class for the school district of Pasco County using the ranking criteria in section V- B (1).

## 7. Designation Options

### a. Scholar Designation\*

Requirements for earning the Scholar Designation can be found in the section titled **Graduation Program Option Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9**.

\*Students receiving an EOC waiver(s) to meet the Algebra 1 EOC and/or the State ELA assessment Grade 10 graduation requirement(s) are not eligible for Scholar Designation.

**b. Merit Designation:** In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements a student may earn the designation of Merit by attaining one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. [1003.492, F.S.](#)).

### c. Florida Seal of Biliteracy

The Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program is established to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more foreign languages in addition to English by the award of a silver or gold seal on a standard high school diploma.

#### Criteria to earn the silver seal:

Has earned four (4) world language course credits in the same world language with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale; \* **OR**

Has earned a score or performance level on any of the examinations found on the chart shown below **OR**

For languages which are not tested on the nationally recognized examinations listed in the chart shown below, the below has completed a Portfolio Option at Intermediate Mid-level or higher.

#### Criteria to earn the gold seal:

1. Has earned four (4) world language course credits in the same world language with a cumulative 3.0 grade point average or higher on a 4.0 scale and a Level 4 or higher on the Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) State Assessment\*

**OR**

Has earned a score or performance level on any of the examinations found on the chart to the below **OR**

For languages which are not tested on the nationally recognized examinations listed in the chart shown to the below has completed a Portfolio Option at Advanced low level or higher.

Examination	Score or Performance Level	Examination	Score or Performance Level
SAT Subject Test	600 or higher	SAT Subject Test	700 or higher
College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Level 1 Language Exam	Spanish 50-62 French 50-58 German 50-59	College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Level 2 Language Exam	Spanish 63 or higher French 59 or higher German 60 or higher
International Baccalaureate Language Exam	4 or higher	International Baccalaureate Language Exam	5 or higher
Advanced Placement Language Exam	3 or higher	Advanced Placement Language Exam	4 or higher
Advanced International Certificate of Education Subject Test	A, B, C, D, or E	Advanced International Certificate of Education Subject Test	A, B, C, D
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)	3 or higher	American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI)	4 or higher
Sign Language Proficiency Interview: American Sign Language (SLPI:ASL)	Intermediate Plus or higher	Sign Language Proficiency Interview: American Sign Language (SLPI:ASL)	Advanced Plus or Higher
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Language (AAPPL) Interpersonal Listening, Interpersonal Speaking, Interpretive Listening, and Presentational Writing	Intermediate Mid or higher	American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Language (AAPPL) Interpersonal Listening, Interpersonal Speaking, Interpretive Listening, and Presentational Writing	Advanced Low or Higher
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	Intermediate Mid or higher	ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	Advanced Low or Higher
Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency for Grade 7-Adult (STAMP4S)	Intermediate Mid or higher	Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency for Grade 7-Adult (STAMP4S)	Advanced Low or Higher

Note: A high school student who did not enroll in, or complete, world language courses, shall be awarded four (4) world language high school course credits, upon attaining at least the minimum score or performance level set forth in the assessment table for the Silver Seal of Biliteracy.

\*The 3.0 unweighted GPA applies to the four world language courses only.

## 8. Graduation Ceremonies

### a. Requirements for Participation\*

Students must satisfy state and district graduation requirements prior to the senior notification deadline set forth in the district Student/Teacher Calendar to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Students pursuing the 18- or 24- credit option who are enrolled in a course that requires them to sit for a State EOC and who meet all other graduation requirements, may participate in regular high school or adult education graduation ceremonies but will not receive their high school diploma until scores are received and final grades can be calculated. At this time, a high school diploma will be awarded, if appropriate.

Students pursuing the 18- or 24 - credit option who meet all graduation requirements with the exception of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade State ELA Assessment, and/or the Algebra 1 EOC, may participate in regular high school or adult education graduation ceremonies and will earn a CPT eligible Certificate of Completion.\*

Students pursuing the 18- or 24 - credit option who meet credit and testing requirements, but do not meet minimum GPA requirements for graduation are not eligible to participate in regular high school or adult education graduation ceremonies.

Students pursuing the 18- or 24 - credit option who do not meet minimum credit requirements are not eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students who are not eligible for ESE services and who have completed four years of high school will be referred to adult education to complete all graduation requirements to earn a standard diploma.

\* Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, students must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC or earning a comparative score.

## 9. Graduation Plan

A written graduation plan will be completed and discussed with each potential graduate during the first quarter of the year they plan to graduate. A potential graduate is defined as a student, in the current graduation cohort, with 16 credits who is able to complete all graduation requirements prior to the beginning of the next school year. Students who plan to graduate earlier than their standard 4-year graduation date must complete an Acceleration Plan prior to the new graduation date.

Students who meet the following ACCEL qualifications may graduate with a Standard Diploma. For students to take advantage of this option, schools must have a graduation plan on file approved by the student's guardian (Students who are 18 years of age may approve their own graduation plan).

- a. Earn three elective credits
- b. Physical education is not required.
- c. Online course is not required
- d. All other 9<sup>th</sup> grade graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met ([per F.S. 1003.4282\(3\)\(a\)-\(e\)](#))

## 10. Additional Graduation Information

### a. 24-Credit/4-Year Standard Diploma

**World Language:** Students who intend to pursue a 4-Year college/university education should earn two sequential high scheduled credits in the same world language.

**Course substitution options for a student to satisfy the physical education and fine arts credit requirements.**

Participation in an interscholastic sport for two full seasons will waive the one credit physical education.

Completion of one semester with a grade of “C” or better in a marching band class, physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity or in a dance class will waive one-half credit in a physical education activity course or one-half credit in performing arts. This half credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.

Completion of two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps class (including a significant component of drills) will waive the one credit requirement in physical education and the one credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement; in high schools without the option for Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE).

**Voluntary Service Credit:** Students may earn a maximum of one-half (.5) credit as a social studies elective and one-half (.5) credit non-categorical elective (Voluntary Public Service 0500370) for completion of non- paid voluntary community or school service work. Students who choose to enroll in these courses must complete a minimum of 75 hours of service in either category.

**Graduation GPA:** All courses must be included in the unweighted GPA calculation unless the grade has been forgiven or replaced. Semester grades will be averaged for the unweighted GPA calculation [\[F.S. 1003.4282 \(5\)\]](#).

**GPA Calculation:** If a yearlong course is passed, and one of the semester grades is an F, then the final grade which is the average of the two semesters, will be doubled for GPA calculations.

**Concordant/Comparative Scores by Graduation Year:**

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for required assessment graduation requirements and concordant/comparative scores.

**b. Selecting a Graduation Option**

Prior to changing a graduation option or selecting an 18-credit option, the following requirements must be met: Students in grades 6-12 will be provided annually with information describing the 3-year and 4-year graduation options, including the respective curriculum requirements. A student, with parent or guardian consent, may complete selection of one of the graduation options at any time during grades 9-12. If the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, the student may select the accelerated high school graduation option with or without the written consent of his/her parent or guardian.

**c. Alternative High School Diploma Options**

**1. Graduate 24/7**

Junior and/or Senior students who are not meeting graduation requirements or are otherwise considered “off track”, may qualify to enter the Graduate 24/7 Program to earn their high school diploma. The diploma is issued by the most recently enrolled high school. Students seeking enrollment in the Graduate 24/7 program will undergo review by the most recently enrolled high school student support team, the District Student Services team, with final approval from the Assistant Superintendent for High Schools. Upon completion of graduation requirements as outlined in section V – D – GRADUATION INFORMATION, students will be eligible to return to their most recently enrolled high school to participate in their cohort’s graduation activities.

Students who do not complete graduation requirements prior to their high school’s completion deadline will continue in the Graduate 24/7 Program as a ‘diploma only’ seeking student and will be eligible to receive a diploma from their most recently enrolled high school once graduation requirements are met according to V – D – GRADUATION INFORMATION.

Students who do not meet the enrollment criteria and wish to request special consideration should first work with the student support team at their most recently enrolled high school to submit a request for further consideration.

**2. Underage GED Pathways**

Home Education students and those exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice program who are aged 16 or 17 may transfer to the Underage GED Pathways program to earn their GED. Students must meet eligibility requirements as stated in

Florida Statute (**F.S. 1003.435**) and follow all steps and procedures as it relates to hardship and/or underage GED testing eligibility.

**a. Specific Student Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Student must be 16 or 17 years old
2. Student must be currently enrolled as a Home Education student or exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice Program
3. Student's IEP or 504 plan must be taken into consideration.

The Underage GED Pathways program is designed for a student who can complete the curriculum and pass the GED, therefore graduating, within a semester's time. Any student requiring a longer instructional period should be referred to additional adult education GED and/or adult basic education courses.

The candidate must complete a career planning conference with the Adult Education School Counselor and/or administrator with the parent/guardian in attendance. Career planning shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Reviewing the educational and/or career plans of the candidate.
- b. Assessing the academic and elective course history and achievement of the candidate.
- c. Assessing the interests and aptitudes of the candidate in relation to his/her educational and career plans.

The student will be considered a program completer and high school graduate upon successful completion of all sections of the GED test and will be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma.

### **11. Honorary Diplomas**

A principal may recommend a student to the School Board to be awarded an honorary high school diploma. To be considered, a student must have been enrolled at the high school and, it is not feasible for the student to complete all graduation requirements, yet the principal believes that the student has made significant contributions to the school and student body. The diploma will be awarded the year the student's 9th-grade cohort graduates. A student receiving an honorary diploma may participate in the graduation ceremonies.

### **12. Level 1 Courses and Graduation Credit**

Level 1 courses in the FLDOE State Course Code Directory will only count towards the high school graduation requirements if they are included in the student's IEP or PMP. If the parent or guardian refuses placement of the student in a Level 1 course, the parent or guardian will sign a waiver of the placement, and the student will be placed in a Level 2 course. Documentation of the waiver will be maintained in the student's cumulative file, and the parent or guardian will receive documentation of the recommendation for placement and the waiver of placement.

Individual Educational Plan (IEP) procedures will be followed for exceptional education students.

### **13. Meeting the Graduation Grade Point Average Requirement**

To meet the graduation grade point average of 2.0000 (unweighted), a student may replace, or recover credit according to Pasco County Schools policies.

## E. High School Alternative Curriculum Options

### 1. Adult Education Courses

High school students who are co-enrolled in the adult education secondary program may earn credits with counselor and administrator or designee approval that may be applied to requirements for graduation from a District High School. Courses may be taken for purposes of credit recovery, acceleration on an exception basis, remediation, or grade forgiveness.

### 2. Advanced Placement (AP) [[F.S. 1007.27\(6\)](#)]

The College Board administers the AP Program. A post-secondary institution may award post-secondary credit for an AP course to students who score a minimum of three (3) with a maximum of five (5) on the corresponding AP examination. Students enrolled in AP courses shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for administration of the examination regardless of whether the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

### 3. International Baccalaureate (IB) [[F.S. 1007.27\(7\)](#)]

The International Baccalaureate Organization administers the IB program. A post-secondary institution may award post-secondary credit for success in an IB course. Students enrolled in IB courses shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for administration of the examination regardless of whether or not the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

### 4. Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma Programs [[F.S. 1007.27\(8\)](#)]

The Cambridge AICE programs are administered by Cambridge University. A post-secondary institution may award post-secondary credit for success in an AICE course. Students enrolled in AICE courses shall be exempt from the payment of any fees for administration of the examination regardless of whether the student achieves a passing score on the examination.

### 5. Correspondence Course Credits

Students seeking to earn high school credit for correspondence courses must follow the pre-approval process beginning with submission of the request to their principal or designee. The courses must parallel the State Course Code Directory, Curriculum Frameworks, and Performance Standards. The exception to these guidelines shall be applied to a migrant student who may earn a total of four high school credits through PASS/FL (Portable Assisted Study Sequence/Florida) semi-independent correspondence course program.

### 6. Credit by Examination

#### a. Post-Secondary institutions ([F.S. 1007.27](#))

Post-secondary credit may be earned based on the receipt of a specified minimum score on nationally standardized general or subject area examination. Minimum scores required for an award of credit are stated in the statewide articulation agreement. The examination will be administered at no charge or fee to a senior of Pasco County Schools.

#### b. Credit Acceleration Program ([F.S. 1003.4295](#))

A school district shall award course credit to a student who is not enrolled in the course, or who has not completed the course, if the student attains a score indicating satisfactory performance as defined in [F.S. 1008.22\(3\)\(c\)5](#), on the corresponding statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment. The school district shall permit a student who is not enrolled in the course, or who has not completed the course, to take the standardized end-of-course assessment during the regular administration of the assessment.

**c. College Level Examination Program (CLEP)/Advanced Placement (AP)** examination in a state approved course of study. If a student attains such score on an AP examination or CLEP examination, the school district will award course credit to the student without requiring the student to be enrolled in or to complete the course. Courses eligible for CLEP examinations have been listed by course title and the applicable subject codes in the Florida Course Code Directory in the year the credit was earned.

## **7. Career and Technical Education Programs**

The Career and Technical Education Department, under the Division of Workforce Education, is responsible for developing educational programs that will prepare individuals for the occupations that are important to Florida's economic development. With partners from education, business, industry, and trade associations, this initiative will align workforce education programs with skill requirements for the local and global economy.

High school career and technical programs are designed to provide exposure to occupational opportunities, job specific skills and employability skills.

## **8. Career Academies (F.S. 1003.491)**

a. A career and professional academy is a research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the regional workforce board. Career and professional academies shall be offered by public schools and school districts. Students completing career and professional academy programs must receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available industry certification, and opportunities to earn post-secondary credit if the academy partners with a post-secondary institution approved to operate in the state.

Career and professional academies must provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum. The curriculum must take into consideration multiple styles of student learning; promote learning by doing through application and adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter; enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work ethics.

b. Career Academies will be offered to a limited cohort of students working with business partners and local community partners to provide an integrated approach within a rigorous and relevant curriculum focused on research-based best instructional practices. In addition, the District will offer a Certified Career Academy that offers the highest level of industry certification recognized by the state.

## **9. Graduation Enhancement (Dropout Prevention) Program (GEP)**

The GEP is comprised of a series of educational support programs, including credit recovery, specifically designed to address the academic needs of at-risk students identified as off-track for graduation. Graduation requirements for students in graduation enhancement programs are identical to the requirements for other students in grades 9-12. These programs are currently implemented in all of the District's secondary schools and educational centers. Formal GEPs include:

### **a. Student Support and Assistance Plan Program (SSAP)**

The SSAP program is based on the underlying concept that all children can learn and that environments conducive to learning can stimulate student success. Students receive direct instruction under the supervision of classroom teachers. The case manager will provide ancillary services to support students in the classroom. The graduation enhancement program teacher will function as case manager for the students.

#### **1. Specific Student Eligibility Criteria**

Students identified as at risk or off track using one or more of the following indicators:

- a. Grade point average (current or cumulative) below 2.0
- b. Failing two or more subject areas within one school year.
- c. History of one or more retentions.
- d. More than 10% absentee rate, record of truancy, or frequent tardiness.
- e. Does not meet the state or district proficiency levels in reading, mathematics, science, or writing.

### **b. High School Credit Recovery Program (CRP)**

The CRP is designed for students identified as off track or highly off track, whose kindergarten cohort is currently in grade 9-12.

### **1. Admissions**

- a. Student must have failed the courses in which he or she is seeking a credit replacement. Admission may also be considered for students moving in from out-of-state with credit deficiencies, with approval from the Program Coordinator over School Counseling.
- b. Student and parent or guardian must sign the Credit Recovery Agreement.
- c. School officials will conduct conferences with eligible student and parent or guardian.

### **2. Instruction Time**

All courses offered through the Credit Recovery Program will be delivered virtually via district-approved courseware, which may include but is not limited to Credit Recovery private vendor, Pasco eSchool or FLVS. Access to courseware will be provided at the school's designated eLab.

### **3. NCAA**

The credits earned through the credit recovery program will count towards completion of high school graduation requirements. However, college-bound student athletes must take the non-prescriptive/full credit recovery course to fulfill NCAA requirements. These students must not opt-out of module work and must complete all course assignments. It is the responsibility of the student athletes and parent or guardian to contact the NCAA Eligibility Center for additional information.

### **4. Academic Coaching Component**

Students will receive direct support from the Graduation Enhancement Teacher (SSAP Program). The Graduation Enhancement Teacher will monitor students' academic performance and attendance, communicate with parent or guardian, and assist students with post-academic or secondary placement plans.

### **c. Support Our Students (SOS) Program**

The SOS Program has been developed in response to the increasing number of secondary students who are not experiencing academic success in the traditional school setting.

#### **1. Specific Student Eligibility Criteria:**

First priority will be given to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students targeted as "off-track" who can be best served in the SOS classes. After seniors have been given priority placement, remaining slots may be filled with junior class members who meet SOS eligibility criteria. To be eligible, a student must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. GPA (current or cumulative) below 2.0
- b. Failing two or more subject areas within one school year
- c. History of one or more retentions
- d. More than a 10% absentee rate, record of truancy or frequent tardiness
- e. Does not meet state or district proficiency levels in reading, mathematics, science or writing.
- f. 17+ years-old

#### **2. Student Admission Procedures**

Admission into the SOS Program will be based on the above eligibility criteria. Students will be prioritized for program placements according to need. Eligible students will be admitted to the program by the following procedures:

- a. Students will be interviewed to determine their interest and commitment to the program.
- b. Students will be counseled regarding their current academic standing and program requirements.
- c. The Graduation Enhancement Teacher, school counselor, and administration will determine placement in the SOS program.

- d. When a student is determined eligible, a student with a parent/guardian, or a student only conference (if student is 18 years), shall be held. A letter of notification containing a permission agreement must be sent to the parent or guardian for signature of approval; this must be documented.
- e. The student will be scheduled into the SOS Program. If the program is full, the student will be placed on a waiting list.

#### **d. Teenage Parent Program**

Pasco's Teen Parent Program provides a voluntary educational program and childcare for students who are pregnant or are parents. The teen parent program includes high school coursework, including advanced courses, courses and activities in childcare, parenting, and pre and postnatal health. Parents in this program may choose to participate in the Teen Parent Program offerings, including child development in the daycare setting.

The Teen Parent Program is designed to serve students from grades seven through twelve. Students in grade six and lower may be deemed eligible for the Teen Parent Program but will require case-by-case consideration. A meeting will be held with school administrators, parents, student services team (counselor, social worker, nurse), graduation enhancement teacher, and program supervisor to determine appropriate educational alternative and services. Local agencies that offer support services to teen parents and their families will be invited as appropriate.

There are four options for teen parents:

**Option 1** –Teen Parent Program (Cysis Centers).

**Option 2** –Pasco eSchool.

**Option 3** –remaining at their zoned school.

**Option 4**- interested in attending middle school campuses that are in proximity to Teen Parent Program Cysis Center Sites.

Note: Childcare will be provided on campuses with Cysis Centers during its normal operating hours. Daycare services are not offered through the Cysis Centers as funding only covers Cysis enrolled students.

#### **e. East and West Pasco Education Academies**

East Pasco and West Pasco Education Academies are educational programs that provide a positive, intensive behavior change program staffed with a full-time Student Services Support team that targets teaching coping and social emotional skills and assists students in developing a positive attitude toward learning, the school environment, school staff, and their peers.

The East Pasco and West Pasco Education Academies offer an integrated academic program, with computer-assisted skills remediation and a community experience component to assist students who have fallen behind to take the steps to move them towards completion of a standard high school diploma.

Students in the East Pasco and West Pasco Education Academies will comply with the behavior and academic skills necessary to return successfully to their home school or enter an adult education program to work toward a State of Florida High School diploma or GED.

Students may be placed in an Education Academy for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Behavior: Students who have demonstrated a pattern of problematic behavior that has not improved with a continuum of positive intervention strategies. Placements may occur after consultation with the Director of Student Services or the Director of Exceptional Education or the Supervisor of Graduation Enhancement Program.
2. Eighth Grade Recovery Program: Grade 8 students who did not meet the criteria for promotion to grade 9 due to failing grades and were recommended for retention. These students work on course recovery to meet middle school promotion requirements and also take high school classes for credit. Students placed for course recovery may only participate in extracurricular activities at their grade level if they meet eligibility requirements.

3. Credit Recovery: At risk high school students with credit deficiencies who need to complete high school credit requirements in a graduation enhancement setting.
4. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Transition Students: Students transitioning back from DJJ commitment programs. These students may be assigned based on a review of their individual program needs through our transition coordinator.
5. Students entering from Out-Of-County Alternative Programs: New students entering from out-of- county alternative programs. These students are assigned based on a review of their individual program needs through our transition coordinator, Director of the office for Student Support Programs and Services, Division for Student Services or designee.

#### **f. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Programs**

DJJ programs are provided at the Pasco Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Central Pasco Girls Academy, and PACE for Girls - Pasco. Adjudicated students participate in courses to maintain their educational status until they have been released from the facility and are ready to reenter their zoned school. Qualifying students will have the opportunity to earn a State of Florida High School Diploma through the GED Exit Option prior to release with any associated fees waived. Students committed to DJJ facilities will participate in all required statewide assessment testing. Educational programs operate on a 12-month basis, 240 days yearly with no more than ten days of those days being used for teacher planning. PACE operates a 230-day calendar.

### **10. Dual Enrollment ([F.S. 1007.22](#), [1007.24](#), [1007.25](#), [1007.271](#), and [1007.272](#))**

Dual Enrollment is defined as the enrollment of an eligible secondary student in a post-secondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career and technical certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree [[F.S. 1007.271\(1\)](#)]. Each Dual Enrollment articulation agreement outlines the guidance for eligibility, enrollment, registration, etc. Please refer to the specific articulation agreement for the institution's policies.

#### **a. Career Dual Enrollment**

This shall be provided as a curricular option for secondary students to pursue in order to earn a series of elective credits toward the high school diploma. Career Dual Enrollment shall be available for secondary students seeking a degree or certification from a complete career-preparatory program but shall not be used to enroll students in isolated career courses [[F.S. 1007.271\(4\)](#)]. Each Dual Enrollment articulation agreement outlines the guidance for eligibility, enrollment, registration, etc. Please refer to the specific articulation agreement for the institution's policies.

### **11. Full-Time Dual Enrollment**

Full-time Dual Enrollment allows eligible secondary students to enroll full-time in a post-secondary institution that has an approved Dual Enrollment contractual agreement with Pasco County Schools in courses that are creditable toward the high school diploma and the associate or baccalaureate degree. These students are not required to secure Superintendent or School Board approval and are not withdrawn from Pasco County Schools. These students are eligible for valedictorian, salutatorian and *cum laude* recognition.

In all cases a student must meet all state and district course and graduation requirements. Full-time Dual Enrollment students must meet the full-time student status at the college level (12 hours per semester).

### **12. Early College**

The Early College Program (ECP) is a structured high school acceleration program in which students are enrolled in postsecondary courses toward an associate degree while simultaneously earning their high school diploma. This program will begin in 9<sup>th</sup> grade with students enrolling in some Dual Enrollment (DE) coursework in combination with high school classes. By 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Early College students will be taking DE coursework fulltime through a variety of

modalities such as on campus at FHS or ZHS, virtually via Pasco eSchool and at PHSC (on campus and/or online). Students will collaborate with their counselor to design pathways that will best meet their post-secondary aspirations with the goal of earning an AA degree by graduation. The PHSC Early College articulation agreement outlines the guidance specific to the Early College Program.

### **13. Home Education**

A Home Education program is the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian to satisfy the attendance requirement of [F.S. 1002.01](#), [1002.41](#), [1003.01\(13\)](#), and [1003.21\(1\)](#). A Home Education program is the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian in order to satisfy the attendance requirement of [F.S. 1002.01](#), [1002.41](#), [1003.01\(13\)](#), and [1003.21\(1\)](#).

#### **a. Home Education programs must meet the following registration and compliance requirements:**

1. Parents or guardians must register Home Education students with Pasco County Schools within 30 days of the establishment of the Home Education program.
2. Parents or guardians must provide written notice of termination to the Pasco County Schools within 30 days of the termination of a Home Education program.
3. Parents or guardians must maintain a portfolio of records, educational activities and materials. Portfolios are to be preserved for two (2) years and shall be made available for the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent's designee, upon 15 days' written notice. A four to six-week screening period will be allowed from the time of enrollment in order assist with placement adjustments.
4. Parents or guardians shall provide for annual educational evaluations documenting that the student's educational progress is at a level commensurate with his or her ability.
5. A Home Education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.

Home education students must follow all the rules set forth in Florida Statute [1002.41](#), even if the student is participating in virtual curriculum.

To graduate from a Pasco County School, students must have earned 6 credits from a Pasco County school. The student must enroll full time in their zoned high school no later than the first day of the last semester prior to graduation. If enrolling in Pasco eSchool, the student must enroll during the Fall enrollment window.

#### **b. Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students enrolled in Home Education and virtual programs who participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities may be required to enroll in the specific course required at their zoned high school. All students are subject to established criteria for participation.

Students may participate in Pasco County Schools interscholastic extra-curricular student activities at their zoned school. Students must meet the requirements of the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) and the Florida School Music Association (FSMA) for participation.

#### **c. FLVS Full-Time Enrollment**

Students electing to enroll in FLVS Full Time School (6 courses per semester) will be withdrawn from the district. Students electing to enroll in the FLVS part time (or "classic") program for a full class schedule of 6 courses will be required to register with the District as a Home Education student.

#### **d. Part-Time Enrollment F.S. 1002.41(4)]**

Home Education students at the secondary level may enroll in courses that are required for participation in extra-curricular activities at their zoned school or by following School Board policy to attend a school outside the zoned area. Part-time enrollment at a zoned school is allowed for enrollment in course(s) required for participation in an extra-curricular activity. Enrollment is contingent on space availability. Student schedule and arrival and departure times on campus are subject to the principal's approval. Part-time Home Education students are not eligible to graduate with a district diploma.

e. Home Education students are not eligible for class rankings, honor roll status or graduation from a Pasco County Schools high school.

**f. Transfer of Home Education Credits ([SBE 6A.1.09941](#))**

Home Education students who transfer into a Pasco County Schools' high school as a full-time Pasco County School's student shall be granted credits as follows:

**1. Official Transcript from an Accredited Academic Program**

Credits and grades are to be accepted at face value when submitted on an official transcript from an accredited academic program such as an accredited correspondence course, Florida Virtual School or an accredited learning center.

**2. Official Transcript from a Non-Accredited Academic Program**

Credits and grades submitted on an official transcript from a non-accredited academic program shall be validated by placement in the "appropriate" sequential course level with satisfactory performance (2.0000 GPA) during the first quarter grading period in which the student is enrolled. Upon validation, credits and grades are to be accepted at face value by the end of the first grading period.

**3. Unofficial Transcript or Home Education Portfolio Documentation**

Credits submitted on an unofficial transcript or in a Home Education portfolio shall be validated by placement in the "appropriate" sequential course level with satisfactory performance (2.0000 GPA) during the first quarter grading period in which the student is enrolled. Upon validation, credit(s) only (not grades) are to be granted.

**4. Alternative Methods of Validation**

If a student does not meet the scholastic performance standard of a 2.0000 GPA at the end of the first quarter grading period in which the student is enrolled, alternative validation procedures specified by State Board of Education (SBE) rule shall be used to validate credit. The validation procedures that will be used are to be determined by the teacher, principal, and parent or guardian. The alternative validation procedures are:

- a. portfolio evaluation by the school principal or designee;
- b. written recommendation by a Florida Certified teacher, selected by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal;
- c. demonstrated performance in courses taken through Dual Enrollment or other public or private accredited schools;
- d. demonstrated performance on a nationally-normed standardized subject area assessment;
- e. demonstrated performance State End-of-Course Assessment; or
- f. written review of the criteria utilized for a given subject provided by the former school.

Students shall have at least ninety (90) days to prepare for nationally-normed standardized subject area assessments or state assessments.

Credits must be validated within the first ninety (90) days of the student's enrollment in a Pasco County School unless validation is being completed through standardized subject area assessments. Credits must be validated through standardized assessments or the state assessment by the end of the school year.

If the student's performance in the classroom during the first grading period does not indicate that the student has the necessary educational foundation to be successful in the course, the school, parent or guardian, and teacher may reconsider whether the student was placed at the "appropriate" sequential level.

## **5. Requirements for Graduation**

Home Education students transferring to Pasco County Schools must earn a minimum of six (6) credits in district schools during their last full academic year prior to graduation and pass the appropriate state test required for graduation to receive a diploma from the District.

## **14. High School Articulation Agreement for Career Technical Education (CTE) & JROTC**

Students electing to enroll in a CTE or JROTC program from a Pasco high school other than their zoned school must attend that school for the entire day. Students electing to attend a CTE program from one side of the county to another must receive District approval and provide their own transportation. Students will be permitted to drive to the school of choice upon approval of the Principal. Students electing to attend another school must complete and submit a School Choice application.

Criteria for admission will be based upon program GPA, credit status, attendance, discipline record and career goals. Preference will be given to grade 11 and 12 students.

## **15. Pasco eSchool (PVIP)**

Online courses through Pasco eSchool will be offered to students.

a. The District shall provide eligible students within its boundaries the option of participating in a virtual instruction program. The program shall provide virtual instruction to full-time students enrolled in full-time virtual courses in kindergarten through grade 12 or part-time virtual courses in grades K-12 [[F.S. 1002.455\(5\)](#)]. Shared enrollment for students in Pasco eSchool may occur in alignment with the district drop/add timelines. Students may also take additional courses through Pasco eSchool beyond the regular school day with admin approval.

b. Pasco eSchool courses shall be available to students during the normal school day and through the extended year program, as funding permits [[F.S. 1001.42\(23\)](#)]. It is the parent's or guardian's and student's right to participate in a school district virtual instruction program. Students who wish to have a placeholder in their on-campus schedule for the second semester of the academic year to complete an online course activated during the first semester must be on pace with their online coursework and be registered and assigned to a classroom for a subsequent semester of credit.

### **c. Credits**

A student may earn credits offered through the Pasco eSchool each year. Grades for Pasco eSchool courses completed in accordance with the district's academic calendar will be included in the determination of student recognition programs, including semester honor roll.

### **d. Courses**

Pasco eSchool courses shall be available to students during or after the normal school day and through summer school enrollment [[F.S. 1001.42\(23\)](#)]. A student may not enroll in the same course, same semester curriculum at the same time. Students must follow the drop/add policies. Pasco eSchool course requests that are assigned the statuses Course Requested (CR), Course Request Complete (CRC), Classroom Assigned (CA), Course Request Incomplete (CRI), Withdrawn passing (WP), Withdrawn failing (WF), Withdrawn No Grade (W), and Not Activated (NAC) do not count as active courses for the purpose of establishing full-time enrollment status. Additionally, any virtual course activated prior to July 1 cannot be counted in the course schedule for the school year beginning on July 1 – even if the course remains active. Students who complete a virtual course in less than a semester will not be required to enroll in an additional course to meet full-time status, as long as they complete a minimum of three (3) credits per semester. Courses should begin after December first to be counted as part of

the second semester six period day. Students who wish to have a placeholder in their on-campus schedule for the second semester of the academic year to complete an online course activated during the first semester must be on pace with their online coursework and be registered and assigned to a classroom for a subsequent semester of credit.

**e. Enrollment Approval Requirements**

Students requesting to take a course offered by Pasco eSchool must have counselor and parent or guardian approval [[F.S. 1002.20\(6\)](#)].

**f. Acceleration**

Students intending to accelerate graduation by using the Pasco eSchool courses must have a written plan that is approved by parents or guardians and outlines the projected course plan for high school. The plan will identify projected courses taken within and outside of the regular attendance requirements, timelines, and location for accessing the internet.

**g. Summer Session Enrollment**

Students may enroll in Pasco eSchool courses during the summer, as available. Any virtual course activated prior to July 1 cannot be counted in the course schedule for the school year beginning on July 1 – even if the course remains active.

**16. Florida Virtual School (FLVS)**

**a. Credits**

A student may earn credits offered through the FLVS each year. Grades for FLVS courses will not be included in the determination of student recognition programs, including honor roll.

**b. Courses**

FLVS courses shall be available to students during or after the normal school day and through summer school enrollment [[F.S. 1001.42\(23\)](#)]. A student may not enroll in the same course, same semester curriculum at the same time. Students must follow the drop/add policies. Florida Virtual School course requests that are assigned the statuses Course Requested (CR), Course Request Complete (CRC), Classroom Assigned (CA), Course Request Incomplete (CRI), Withdrawn, No Grade (WNG), and Not Activated (NA) Withdrawn, Passing (WP), Withdrawn, Failing (WF), Withdrawn, No Grade (W), and Not Activated (NAC) do not count as active courses for the purpose of establishing full-time enrollment status. Additionally, any virtual course activated prior to July 1 cannot be counted in the course schedule for the school year beginning on July 1 – even if the course remains active. Students who complete a virtual course in less than a semester will not be required to enroll in an additional course to meet full-time status, as long as they complete a minimum of three (3) credits per semester. Courses should begin after December first to be counted as part of the second semester six period day.

**c. Enrollment Approval Requirements**

Students requesting to take a course offered by FLVS must have counselor and parent or guardian approval [[F.S. 1002.20\(6\)](#)].

**d. Acceleration**

Students intending to accelerate graduation by using the FLVS courses must have a written plan that is approved by parents or guardians and outlines the projected course plan for high school. The plan will identify projected courses taken within and outside of the regular attendance requirements, timelines, and location for accessing the internet. This plan should be filed in the student's cumulative folder.

**e. Summer Session Enrollment**

Students may enroll in FLVS courses during the summer, as available. Any virtual course activated prior to July 1 cannot be counted in the course schedule for the school year beginning on July 1 – even if the course remains active.

**f. FLVS Full-Time Enrollment**

Students electing to enroll in FLVS Full Time School (6 courses per semester) will be withdrawn from the district. Student electing to enroll in the FLVS part time (or "classic") program for a full class schedule of 6 courses will be required to register with the District as a Home Education student.

## F. High School Exceptional Student Education

### 1. Curriculum and Instruction

#### a. Drop/Add Procedures for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Students

Exceptions to the district drop/add procedures timeline can be made based on the individual student needs if approved by the principal or designee. When a student transfers from a basic education course to a Florida Standards Access Points course, the grade does not necessarily equate to the same grade due to the differences in the course expectations and performance standards. Consequently, it is the responsibility of the ESE teacher to assign a letter grade based on demonstrated mastery of Florida Standards Access Points course performance standards for work completed before and after the course change.

#### b. Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Student Rights/Parent/Guardian Notification

Status with regard to mastery of standards should be discussed with parents or guardians at each IEP review/amendment meeting. Additionally, graduation options and implications should be discussed with parents/guardians and students at these meetings.

The parents/guardians of each exceptional student and the student shall be notified of the graduation options available at the IEP meeting prior to age 14.

*An Informed Notice of a Change in Placement for ESE Students Graduating with a Standard Diploma or Aging Out of Eligibility for Services* must be issued to the student and parent or guardian prior to graduation when a student is eligible to graduate with a standard diploma or at the end of the school year when a student reaches 22 years of age. Semester graduation applies to students in the 2014-2015 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort and beyond.

#### c. Graduation Deferment\* [6A-1.09963\(4\)\(a\)](#)

Upon award of a standard high school diploma the ESE student is no longer eligible to receive public education or special education services. The decision to accept or defer the standard high school diploma must be made by the IEP team during the school year in which the student is expected to meet all requirements. IEP teams may elect to defer the receipt of the standard diploma under certain conditions:

1. The student's IEP prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services or related services through age 21.

AND

2. The student is enrolled in accelerated college credit, industry certification courses that lead to college credit, a collegiate high school, courses necessary for Scholar designation, or structured work-study, internship or pre-apprenticeship program.

The IEP team must agree that the student requesting to defer receipt of the standard diploma needs continuation of ESE services to support transition to post-school outcomes.

By January 30<sup>th</sup> of the year in which the student is expected to meet graduation requirements, the school district must inform parents or guardians and students in writing that failure to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma will release the school district from the obligation to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). The decision to accept or defer receipt of the diploma must be made by May 15<sup>th</sup> in which the student is expected to meet graduation requirements.

Students who chose to defer the receipt of the diploma will participate in graduation ceremonies with their graduating class. If a student elects to defer, the diploma will be provided at the next scheduled issuance of diplomas after the student completes his/her ESE deferment program.

\* Due to COVID19, if an ESE student who was a senior and was expected to graduate in the Spring of 2020 did not meet the exit criteria for Algebra I EOC and/or Grade 10 ELA FSA, or earn a concordant or comparative score, the requirement was waived, therefore these requirements will not impact an IEP team considering deferment.

#### **d. Transition Education Program - Free Appropriate Public Education Through Age 22**

Beginning with the 2014 - 2015 cohort, students with disabilities who have deferred receipt of their standard diploma remain eligible for educational services through the end of the semester in which they reach 22 years of age [Title 34, CFR section 300.101(a)]. Students with disabilities in the 2013-2014 cohort, or prior, who have earned a special diploma remain eligible for educational services through the end of the school year in which they reach 22 years of age.

Students with disabilities who have graduated with a special diploma or deferred receipt of their standard diploma are to be enrolled in grade 12 as additional school year students for FEFP purposes. Students in a TEP (FAPE 22) program may attend full-time or part-time. The educational and transitional needs of these students will be identified in their IEPs.

Students who turn 22 years old prior to the first day of the next school year (for students who turn 22 during the summer) are not eligible for continued K-12 educational services.

#### **e. Grade Classification for ESE Students**

High school ESE students will be assigned to grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 according to the requirements prescribed for basic education students as specified in the Student Progression Plan.

#### **f. One Credit Scheduling Option**

A yearlong ESE course may be scheduled as a one-half (.5) credit semester course based on student need.

##### **1. Self-Determination Instruction**

Students ages fourteen and older need to be provided with instruction or information in the area of self-determination to assist the student to be able to actively and effectively participate in IEP meetings and self-advocate if appropriate ([SBE 6A-6.03028](#)).

#### **g. English Language Learners (ELLs) services for students with disabilities**

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students who are ELLs must be served with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies, modifications, and accommodations as well as ESE modifications and accommodations listed in the IEP. An ELL committee may convene to determine if the student's exceptionality interferes with the student's ability to benefit from ESOL services. In such cases, the ELL committee must meet to make determinations as per the current District ELL Plan. When appropriate, students are entitled to both ESOL and ESE services.

#### **h. Statewide Assessment**

All ESE students must participate in grade-level required statewide assessments. The decision regarding which assessment the student will participate in is made by the IEP team. If the IEP team determines the student will take the FSAA, the following information applies:

For any yearlong course that requires a State EOC, the semester grades will be excluded regardless of whether or not the student takes the assessment. The grade will then be awarded in the form of a yearlong grade that is used for the GPA calculation. If a student enrolled in a state EOC assessed course does not earn a valid score on the State EOC as a result of invalidation or fails to take the EOC on regular or makeup dates provided during the term the student is enrolled in the course, the student will have a 0% entered into the student information system as the student's EOC grade for that course and the 0% will be applied as 30% of the yearlong course grade until the student sits for the EOC and produces a valid score.

The following grading scale will be used for calculating the 30% State EOC component of the yearlong grade in the student information system:

## FSAA EOC Conversion Chart

Achievement Level	EOC Converted Grade
4	100%
3	89%
2	79%
1	69%

Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Civics, Biology, Geometry and/or U.S. History during the 19-20 school year were not required to take the state EOC. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation (Civics does not have an impact on GPA calculation) since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher-assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

## 2. Diploma and Certificate Options

### a. Standard Diploma Criteria

1. All Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students must meet the district course and credit requirements for a standard diploma. ESE Special Skills courses may be used as electives.
2. ESE students must meet the statewide assessment (unless student meets criteria for waiver) and GPA requirements as specified for a standard diploma. Instruction, as specified in the IEP, is provided to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation [[F.S. 1003.4282\(10\)](#)].
3. Accommodations may be provided for exceptional students as specified in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Requirements for academic or basic high school courses may not be modified (cannot change curriculum frameworks or student standards) for students with disabilities if the courses are to be used to meet the graduation requirements for a standard diploma [[SBE 6A-6.0312\(1\)](#)].

### b. Waiver of Statewide, Standardized Assessment Requirements

The Enhanced New Needed Opportunity for Better Life and Education for Students with Disabilities (ENNOBLES) Act, addresses access to post-secondary education and meaningful careers for students with disabilities [[F.S. 1007.02](#)].

For the purposes of this act, the term "student with disability" means any student who is documented as having an intellectual disability; a hearing impairment, including deafness; a speech or language impairment; a visual impairment, including blindness; an emotional or behavioral disability; an orthopedic or other health impairment; an autism spectrum disorder; a traumatic brain injury; or a specific learning disability, including, but not limited to dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia.

Section [1008.22\(3\)\(c\)1.](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires that school districts provide instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate satisfactory performance in the core content knowledge and skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation. Assessment results may be waived under specific circumstances for students with disabilities for the purpose of receiving a course grade and a standard high school diploma. Specific requirements regarding the waiver process are found in s. [1008.22\(3\)\(c\)2., F.S.](#)

To be considered for the waiver from the statewide, standardized assessment graduation requirement, the student must:

1. The student must be identified as a student with a disability as defined in [S.1007.02.FS](#)
2. The term “student with a disability” means a student who is documented as having an intellectual disability, hearing impairment, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment, an orthopedic or other health impairment, an emotional or behavioral impairment, autism spectrum disorder. A traumatic brain injury, or specific learning disability including but not limited to, dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia.
3. The student must have an individual educational plan (IEP).
4. The student must have taken the statewide standardized assessment with appropriate allowable accommodations at least once.
5. In accordance with [S.1008.22\(3\)C.2. F.S.](#), the IEP team must make a determination of whether a statewide standardized assessment accurately measures the student’s abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations for students with disabilities.

If there is sufficient evidence that the student has mastered the applicable standards and the IEP team determines that the assessment is not an accurate measure of the student’s ability, the statewide standardized assessment requirement may be waived, and the student may graduate with a standard diploma.

A statewide standardized assessment waiver may be used for both the traditional 24-credit graduation program and the 18-credit/3-year options.

**c. Florida Standards Access Points Assessment Waivers (For Access Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, U.S. History EOCS and 10<sup>th</sup> grade FSAA ELA assessments only)**

Students following Florida Standards Access Points coursework whose performance on the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment is below a level 3 (scale of 1-4) may have results of the assessments waived. A graduation portfolio of quantifiable evidence of achievement must be developed. The portfolio must include:

1. Listing of courses; the student has taken
2. Grades received
3. Student work samples
4. Materials that demonstrate growth, improvement, and mastery of required course standards Multi-media portfolios that contain electronic evidence of progress are permissible.

**3. Grading**

**a. Report Cards and Grading**

Students in Exceptional Education programs pursuing Florida Standards and Florida Standards Access Points will receive a standard report card.

Pasco eSchool shall report students’ grades and progress electronically using the learning management system for each online course. In addition, semester grades will be entered into the district student information system to facilitate communication with families and local schools. No grades for Pasco eSchool courses will be reported at the conclusion of the first and third quarter grading periods.

Students enrolled in career dual enrollment courses will be assigned a grade upon completion of the clock hours of the course.

For students receiving standard report cards, grades will be determined according to procedures for basic education students as outlined in the Student Progression Plan (SPP).

**b. Progress Reports**

Parents or guardians and students must be notified when, during a reporting period, it is apparent that the student is failing or in danger of failing. In addition to report cards and progress reports, notifications may include letters, documented telephone calls, emails, information pasted electronically and/or parent/guardian conferences. Every effort will be made to

provide communication in the child's/parent's/guardian's home language. Students enrolled in a virtual instruction program on a full-time basis will receive monthly progress reports on student academic progress. The progress reports may not be directly linked for IEP goals. Parents or guardians and students will be informed of this difference in progress reporting prior to enrollment in the virtual program as a school choice option.

Parents or guardians will receive a report on the progress of the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) student toward achieving Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals at least quarterly. This is in addition to academic progress reports Title 34, CFR 300.320(a)(3)(ii) and [SBE 6A-6-03028\(3\)\(h\)\(7\)](#).

#### **4. Speech, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy Programs**

Speech, physical therapy, and occupational therapy are services designed to reinforce or enhance a student's ability to benefit from instruction. Attendance in these programs will not affect the 135-hour minimum course instruction requirements for basic, Career and Technical Education (CTE), or Exceptional Student Education (ESE) courses.

## VI. ADULT EDUCATION POLICIES



### **Section VI** **Adult Education**



## 1. Adult Standard Diploma

Adult General Education programs are authorized by [Section 1004.01, F.S.](#), and [Section 1004.93, F.S.](#) The State of Florida Adult High School Course Curriculum Frameworks, as established by [Section 1004.92, F.S.](#), provide a minimum set of standards to be used by all facilitators delivering Adult High School education. Adult High School education includes both Adult High School diploma programs and co-enrollment courses of study. Students in these programs must meet all state and local requirements for graduation.

### ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

#### Criteria for enrolling into an Adult Education programs:

1. Does not possess a high school or state-approved diploma
2. Is 16 years of age or older except where provided elsewhere in law
3. Is officially withdrawn from an elementary or secondary program

All Florida Statutes in their entirety can be found at [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us).

#### a. Adult High School

The Adult High School program enables an adult no longer enrolled for one semester or more in public education to complete the required courses and state assessments to earn an Adult High School diploma. Course requirements are in accordance with standards established by the state.

Home Education students or students aged 16 or older not currently enrolled in a Pasco County schools may transfer to the Adult High School program to complete their graduation requirements without previous approval from a high school support team or District staff. Students must meet graduation eligibility requirements as stated in the Student Progression Plan.

To obtain a standard adult high school diploma, a student must earn the required 24 credits or the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option of 18 credits and successfully complete all state required assessments (10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Assessment and Algebra 1 EOC, or a recognized concordant score as specified in Section 1008.27 (22), F.S., or a recognized comparative score as specified in section [1008.22 \(8\), F.S.](#) and/or End of Course Assessments). A cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for all adult education students.

The ACCEL option allows the student to earn a high school diploma by completing 18 credits, of which are 14 core courses and 4 electives. The online-course requirement does not apply to the 18-credit option.

Adult High School follows the same course requirements and state assessments as those required in the K-12 system, as per sections [1003.4282](#) (24 credit option) and [1002.3105](#) (ACCEL option), F.S. However, there are some exceptions.

1. Students that enter an Adult High School are not required to take the EOC for Algebra 1 if credit for this course was earned and documented on their transcript prior to 2010 – 2011.
2. Students that enter an Adult High School are not required to take the EOC for Biology 1 and/or Geometry if credit for these courses were earned and documented on their transcripts prior 2011-2012.
3. The adult education system is not subject to certain college readiness accountability requirements related to the K-12 system, (Section [1008.30](#) F.S., [Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.](#)).
4. All students taking U.S. History beginning 2012-2013 must take the U.S. History EOC assessment regardless of cohort year.
5. Other exceptions are included in [F.S. 1003.4282](#).

#### b. Determining Graduation Requirements for Adult Education High School Students

To determine graduation requirements, including course requirements and state assessments, for students who are not enrolled in the K-12 educational system, and enroll in Adult High School, the following shall apply:

1. Students entering Adult High School, and whose 9th grade cohort has not graduated, must meet the graduation requirements based on the year that the student entered the 9th grade. (See graduation requirement charts in High School Section).
2. Students entering Adult High School after their 9th grade cohort has graduated, or who are not a part of a 9th grade cohort, must meet the current 12th grade cohort graduation requirements that are in effect for the year they enter Adult High School.

### **c. Credit Completion Timelines**

Adult students attending classes at a school site must successfully complete all current courses by the last day of the adult calendar within the semester (including summer term) of enrollment and receive a passing grade to earn credit toward the Adult Standard High School Diploma.

Adult online courses are open entry/open exit and credit will be awarded upon successful completion of all course requirements/competencies and passing an appropriately proctored final examination.

### **d. Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements**

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0000 on a 4.0000 scale in all courses counted for graduation:

A=	90-100	= 4.0000
B=	80-89	= 3.0000
C=	70-79	= 2.0000
D=	60-69	= 1.0000
F=	0-59	= 0.0000

### **e. Florida Statewide Assessments**

Passing the Algebra 1 EOC is not required to earn credit in the course. Passing of the Algebra 1 EOC is required to earn a standard high school diploma. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during the 19-20 school year (completed by 7/24/20), regardless of grade level were not required to take the Algebra 1 EOC. As with all other cohorts, must still meet the mathematics assessment graduation requirement by either passing the Algebra 1 EOC, or earning a comparative score. For these students who did not already have an EOC exam score, the two semester Algebra 1 grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for these courses were permanently waived even if the student retakes the course and/or takes the EOC.

For students who successfully completed a course (have passing semester grades or the average of the two semester grades resulting in a yearlong passing grade), in the 20-21 school year (by 7/30/21) that includes a statewide EOC, the 30% calculation was applied when the calculation did not negatively impact the student's GPA and/or yearlong grade. For students who did not have the 30% calculation applied or did not have a score from the EOC exam, only the two semester grades were counted in the academic history and GPA calculation since there was no 30% calculation. For these students, there was no teacher assigned yearlong grades for applicable EOC courses. This is a permanent waiver.

The State of Florida allows students to earn credit with a passing score on the following state EOC exams: Algebra I, Geometry, U.S. History, and Biology I. Students transferring from outside the state of Florida may be awarded credit in an EOC course if they meet requirements found in section V-A.14.

Students with disabilities who have withdrawn from the K-12 system and possess a state-wide, standardized assessment waiver, may transfer this waiver to the Adult High School program upon enrollment.

The extension of the waiver to the Adult High School program only applies to students who received waivers as a part of [1008.22\(3\)\(c\) F.S.](#)

**f. Concordant/Comparative Scores by Graduation Year:**

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for required assessment graduation requirements and concordant/comparative scores.

**2. Adult Certificate of Completion [\[F.S. 1003.4282\(6\) \(b\)\]](#)**

An Adult High School student who does not pass the assessment requirements but fulfills all other graduation requirements will be awarded a Certificate of Completion. This Certificate may also be used to verify attendance for a stated period of time in an adult program. The Certificate of Completion may be replaced with a standard high school diploma when the adult student passes all state-required assessments for the appropriate graduation year.

**3. State of Florida High School Diploma (GED) Eligibility for Testing [\(F.S. 1003.435\)](#)**

**a. Candidates 18 Years of Age or Older**

Candidates 18 years of age or older are encouraged to participate in academic and career planning before taking the GED test.

**4. Co-Enrolled Students [\[F.S. 1004.02\(6\)\]](#)**

**a. Purpose**

A co-enrolled student is one who is currently enrolled in a high school program and is taking high school core credit courses through adult education. Appropriate documentation, as specified by the institution, shall be obtained prior to enrollment. The 2012 legislature amended Section [1011.80 \(10\), F.S.](#), for the adult high school co-enrollment program for 2012-13.

K-12 students may be enrolled in the co-enrollment program offered through the district and college workforce education; however, students may only be reported for funding under the following circumstances:

1. Only permitted for periods approved by current Florida legislation
2. Students are limited to two courses for the Fiscal Year
3. Enrollment is limited to core curricula courses for credit recovery or dropout prevention
4. No pattern of excessive absenteeism or habitual truancy, or a history of disruptive behavior

Habitual truant means a student who has 15 unexcused absences within 90-calendar days, as per Section [1003.01, \(8\) F.S.](#) Each district school board shall establish an attendance policy as per Section [1003.24, \(4\) F.S.](#) Students enrolled in the Co-enrollment Program are exempt from the payment of the block tuition for adult education programs.

Co-enrollment Programs are state funded only as allocated by the Florida Legislature, and no federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) funds may be used to support instruction and/or any activity, supplies or resources used in the delivery of the courses. Enrollments and completions may not be included in NRS reporting or AEFLA grant targets performance estimates.

Co-enrolled students are limited to the core courses required for high school graduation as approved by the current Florida legislation.

The co-enrolled form is signed by the base school counselor and presented at time of registration. Co-enrolled students are not required to take a state-approved assessment before taking academic classes in adult education.

Collaboration between the high school counselor, parents, and the adult high school representative can serve as a primary factor in recruitment and retention of students in both programs and ensure credits are properly attributed to the students' home school.

#### **b. Credit Completion Timelines**

Co-enrolled students must successfully complete all requirements of the course by the last student day of the adult school calendar within the term of enrollment and receive a passing grade to earn credit through Adult Education. Co-enrolled students who enroll in an adult summer term must successfully complete all coursework by the end of the adult summer term to receive credit. Students enrolled in high school courses through Adult Education must successfully complete all coursework and attend class for a minimum of 12 clock hours for a half (.5) credit. Clock hours will be determined by the Adult Education Administrator or designee.

#### **c. Learning Opportunities for High School Students to Meet High School Graduation Requirements [F.S. 1003.433(2)(c)]**

High School students who have met all requirements for the standard high school diploma except for passage of the Grade 10 ELA State Assessment and/or the Algebra 1 EOC, or an alternative assessment by the end of grade 12 will be provided with the following learning opportunities:

1. Participation in an accelerated GED program during the summer.
2. Participation in an adult general education program in order to master English, reading, mathematics or any other subject required for high school graduation.

A student attending an adult general education program shall have the opportunity to take the Grade 10 ELA State Assessment and/or the Algebra 1 EOC an unlimited number of times in order to receive a standard high school diploma.

### **5. Accountability and Reporting**

For each student enrolled in adult secondary courses, including co-enrolled and traditional Adult High School courses, a student permanent folder should be created and maintained for at least five years or the length of time required, according to the identified retention schedule of your agency and/or the State of Florida. Specific documents such as records, files, documents, or other materials directly related to the student, as mandated by the State of Florida, Bureau of Archives, and Record Management.

Adult education programs can earn a Literacy Completion Point (LCP) when the Adult High School student has successfully demonstrated mastery of the curriculum framework competencies needed to earn a half (.5) credit in an academic discipline.

Students who are solely enrolled in a district "Adult High School Program", must be reported under the adult education program number **9900010** for the adult education course(s), and the standard high school course number from the Course Code Directory found at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/> . College adult education programs reporting Adult High School students should use the number 1532010202.

The instruction should be consistent with the secondary course descriptions. The course descriptions define content standards for all subject areas and in grades K-12. Students who are co-enrolled must be reported under the program "Adult High School for Co-Enrolled Students" using the program number **9900099** and must report the appropriate course number. The credit from the adult education course(s) can be transferred to the 9-12 secondary programs for a particular course of instruction for the co-enrolled student.

### **6. Tuition and Out-of-State Fees**

All adult education programs will be required to charge the following tuition and out-of-state fees, per Section [1009.22, F.S.](#) There is a \$30.00 block tuition rate for each term in a program year (July 1 - June 30) (\$90/year).

**7. Basic Skill Requirements for Post-Secondary Career and Preparatory Instruction Certificate Programs (F.S. 1004.91)**

Students who are enrolled in a post-secondary career certificate program of 450 hours or more shall be administered the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) within the first six weeks after admission into the program, unless otherwise exempt. Students who do not achieve the minimum level of basic skills required for their programs will not be awarded a program certificate of completion. Students who do not meet the Basic Exit Skills Requirement will be awarded a certificate of attendance. Students who pass industry certification on the approved TABE exemption list provided by the state will be exempted from the Basic Skills Requirement and will be awarded the program certificate of completion. Students with disabilities must be administered the TABE test and provided remediation, if needed. Students with disabilities with appropriate documentation in their Adult 504 Workforce plan who demonstrate mastery of the Student Performance Standards for the Adult Career and Technical Education Program, and complete basic skills remediation will be exempted from the Basic Skills Requirement.

**8. Program of Instruction**

A program of instruction for both traditional and co-enrolled Adult High School students shall be based on the State of Florida adult education frameworks and standards as defined by the Florida Department of Education. Instructional methodologies may include, but are not limited to, traditional lecture instruction, competency and performance-based adult education, distance learning and computer-assisted instruction.

Course numbers and titles must be taken from the *Course Code Directory (CCD)*. The state assigns and recognizes only the first seven digits of the course number. The eighth digit is used by the district for purposes of tracking and reporting data. The state maintains course descriptions for each course listed in the CCD. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of these standards in order to receive credit for each course.

