

Frequently Asked Questions related to Basic Skills Exit Requirements

Basic Skills Exemptions:

1. Where can I find the documentation for basic skills exemptions-specifically the one concerning a FL Standard High School Diploma?

Section 1004.91 refers to Section 1008.30, F.S. and the accompanying Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C., lists the exemptions which can be found at:
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-10.0315>.

2. Section 1004.91, F.S. states that students that are exempt from college testing as per Section 1008.30, are exempt from basic skills testing: “*A student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education pursuant to s. 1008.30 and applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Education.*” Does s. 1008.30, F.S. indicate that a student who meets the criteria for exemption from testing and developmental education is exempt from the required basic skills testing and exit requirements for career and technical education programs? Does this mean that PSAV students can no longer be tested on the "front-end" of their program? Does this mean that these students no longer need the basic skills as an exit requirement or will they still need to take the TABE before receiving a certificate?

Yes, as with prior exemptions in Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C. and Section 1004.91, F.S., the new exemption is for students who demonstrate readiness for public postsecondary education pursuant to Section 1008.30 and applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

This applies to PSAV programs and students are no longer required to be tested if they meet one of the exemptions in Rule.

3. Has Rule 6A-10.0315 been updated and approved to include language regarding students who entered 9th grade in the 2003-04 school year or after and earned a Florida standard high school diploma exempted from taking the basic skills assessment? When does the exemption specifically related to 9th graders take effect? Is there a date relating to the start of the program or the application?

Yes, Rule 6A-10.0315 was amended and became effective October 22, 2013.

Section 1004.91, F.S. became effective July 1, 2013. Any new or currently enrolled student in a CTE program on or after July 1, 2013 would be eligible for the exemption. These exemptions must be implemented no later than the Spring 2014 semester in the Florida College System.

4. Does Rule 6A-10.0315, Common Placement Testing and Instruction, apply to all post-secondary education including technical centers?

Section 1004.91, F.S., exempts any student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education pursuant to s. 1008.30 and applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Therefore, Rule 6A-10.0315 F.A.C., applies to all public postsecondary institutions (technical centers and Florida colleges) offering career certificate programs.

5. Has the Technical Assistance Paper for Assessments been updated to include all basic skills exemptions?

The technical assistance paper is being updated and will be released shortly after Rule 6A-10.040, F.A.C., is amended to reflect changes in Section 1004.91, F.S. Notification will be released once it has been published. The current version of the TAP is located at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4155/basic-skill-tap-att1.pdf>.

6. As of what date were the cut scores on common placement tests, as established in Rule 6A-10.0315 acceptable in place of TABE?

Cut scores for common placement tests have been acceptable in place of the basic skills assessment since the statute rewrite in 2001.

7. How do the exemptions affect students currently enrolled in a CTE program? Can a student that completed a program, but did not meet TABE requirements, now be counted as a completer?

Any new or currently enrolled student in a CTE program would be eligible for the exemption.

If the student is exempt from the basic skills assessment, they are deemed to have met the requirements of the program and no other testing is required. This would be reported the same as if they were exempt due to a degree or common placement examination test score as established in Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

8. Is a GED acceptable as a high school diploma for these exemptions?

No, only the high school withdrawal codes listed in question 10 are acceptable.

9. Does scoring satisfactory levels on the TABE remain a requirement for completion from the CTE program?

If the basic skills requirements are waived based upon one of the exemptions, students do not have to be tested to show that they met basic skills levels for completion purposes.

10. What are the high school withdrawal codes that are applicable to the exemption from common placement testing and developmental education pursuant to Rule 6A-10.0315, FAC and Section 1008.30, F.S.?

W06	Standard Diploma (Passed FCAT)
W43	Adult Standard High School Diploma
W52	Adult Standard High School Diploma (Alternate Assessment)
W6A	Standard Diploma (18-Credit College Prep)
W6B	Standard Diploma (18-Credit Career Prep)
WFA	Standard Diploma (18-Credit College Prep, Alternate Assessment)
WFB	Standard Diploma (18-Credit Career Prep, Alternate Assessment)
WFT	Standard Diploma (Accelerated, Alternate Assessment)
WFW	Standard High School Diploma (FCAT Waiver)
WXL	Standard High School Diploma (Academically Challenging Curriculum to enhance Learning (ACCEL) options)

11. Is a high school diploma from a charter school considered the same as one from a public school?

Yes, all charters in Florida are public schools within the district system, and students in those charters are required to meet the same graduation requirements as all other public school students.

12. How does this change affect dual enrolled students who have yet to earn their high school diploma but are on track to graduate at the end of their senior year?

Dual enrolled students must show readiness for public postsecondary education by one of the means listed in Rule 6A-10.0315, FAC. Since the student does not have a high school diploma at the time of enrollment, one of the other exemptions must be met or the student must be tested to demonstrate postsecondary readiness.

13. We have students who have standard high school diplomas, who are currently enrolled in Applied Academics full-time to upgrade TABE scores before entering technical programs; now, new students have been told they did not have to TABE and have started their technical training. As an instructor, should I refer these students with diplomas back to Student Services for enrollment in technical programs? Clarification is needed.

Yes, if the student is currently enrolled in a CTE program and meet one of the exemptions in Rule 6A-10.0315, FAC, they would be able to opt out of AAAE. No student should be denied entry into a CTE program based solely on a test score.

14. Could you clarify if the language in Rule 6A-10.0315, FAC, applies to Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test?

Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test is required under Section 943.17, F.S. for entry into Criminal Justice programs. The Criminal Justice Training Commission sets the standards for their training programs.

15. We use the TABE in conjunction with other measures to select students for limited access programs. Can we require these students to take the TABE? If not, how should they be treated in a formula that uses the TABE?

Each Florida College Board of Trustees has the authority to establish criteria for admission to limited access programs as per Section 1007.263(3), F.S.

Resources:

Rule 6A-10.0315 memo:

<http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/OSAS/Correspondence/pdf/JA-MemoSB-Rule6A-10.pdf>

The Florida College System has responded to several questions on the changes of Senate Bill 1720. The responses are listed at: <http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/OSAS/Correspondence/pdf/JA-FAQsDevEdReform070113.pdf>