



March 30, 2021

COVID-19 EDUCATION INFORMATION: ENSURING SECONDARY STUDENTS RECEIVE CAREER-TECHNICAL ASSURANCE GUIDE (CTAG) CREDIT

In response to the ongoing challenges schools face due to COVID-19, the Ohio General Assembly passed an amended version of House Bill 67. HB 67 includes language that allows juniors and seniors to use course grades in place of test scores for the 2020-2021 school year to meet graduation requirements.

Passing scores on WebXam assessments are needed for students to be eligible for articulated credit when they matriculate at one of Ohio's public higher education institutions. To maintain the ability of Ohio's career-technical education students to receive earned postsecondary Career-Technical Assurance Guide (CTAG) credit, both the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recognize that the alternative grade option used in the 2019-2020 school year will need to be implemented for juniors and seniors in the current school year, as necessary.

The following guidance meets those objectives.

POLICY GUIDANCE: USE OF COURSE GRADES

The Chancellor has approved a temporary change to Ohio's articulation and transfer policy so that the course grades of junior and senior students can be used in lieu of the traditional end-of-course WebXam assessments. As authorized by HB 67, this change would be in effect for junior and senior students enrolled in a career-technical education course in the 2020-2021 school year.

Alternative to Calculate WebXam Scores

For the 2020-2021 school year, the following rules will be used as the alternative to calculate WebXam scores for junior and senior students enrolled in a career-technical education course for the spring of 2021:

- **Advanced score:** A grade of A in the career-technical education course will equate to an Advanced score on the WebXam;
- **Proficient score:** A grade of B or C (or a "Pass" if graded on a Pass/Fail scale) in the career-technical education course will equate to a Proficient score on the WebXam.
- **Not proficient score:** A grade of D or F (or a "Fail" if graded on a Pass/Fail scale) will equate to a Not Proficient score on the WebXam.

| Proposed All Student End-of-Course Exam | |
|--|------------------------------|
| FY 2021 Course Grade | WebXam Score Reported |
| A | A – Advanced |
| B | P – Proficient |
| C | P – Proficient |
| D | N – Not Proficient |
| F | N – Not Proficient |
| P (on P/F scale) | P – Proficient |
| F (on P/F scale) | N – Not Proficient |

Calculating Multiple WebXam Scores in a Single Year

If a student took the WebXam earlier in the school year and a course grade is reported, ODE recommends the higher outcome will be used to calculate technical skill attainment passage for this pathway.

For example, in 2021, a student who receives a “B” in the Hydraulics and Pneumatics course, subject code 010225, would be reported as having scored Proficient on the aligned WebXam, subject code ABA5, with a score of “P” and a Score Not Report Reason of “X”.

Why Testing Matters

End-of-course assessments are a way to assess technical knowledge and skill attainment by the students. Teachers can analyze end-of-course assessment data to identify student performance gaps. After identification of student learning gaps, teachers can provide interventions and remediation to students to close the performance gaps. Documentation of technical attainment can allow teachers to better prepare, ultimately improving teacher effectiveness, which is beneficial to the student, the teacher, local programs, and to Ohio business and industry. Schools should post-test juniors and seniors first, and if the grade substitution is advantageous for the student for the 2020-2021 school year, districts may use the grade substitution option.