

<p>PRESTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  FILE: 3 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION  <b>File: 3-25 Mastery Testing</b></p>	<p>Last Reviewed: 8-9-10  Next Review: 7-1-12</p>
---	---

West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2510 states, "County boards of education shall provide alternative means for students to earn high school credit." According to section S.6.8.c of that policy, "A county may develop tests for the purpose of moving students more quickly through the curriculum by "testing out." This practice is considered to be acceleration, which the policy defines as a means of obtaining content mastery at a faster rate or at an earlier time. Students who demonstrate academic readiness for various delivery options are eligible for acceleration.

The county school systems in the RESA VII service area acknowledge the importance of the teacher and the classroom environment in effectively engaging students in mastery of learning goals and objectives. Generally, students benefit from the daily interaction that occurs within the classroom setting. In this environment, most students are able to achieve success and earn course credit toward high school graduation. However, to meet the needs of students who seek verification of mastery of course goals and objectives through self-study, a regional Testing Out program has been established.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to test out of a core academic course required for graduation, it is recommended that a student demonstrate a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 or 3.0 for the subject being tested. A student may petition the school principal for special consideration of exception to this criterion with approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee. The registration fee must be received in the RESA VII office with the application.

**Mastery Criteria**

Student test mastery will be determined by satisfactorily passing the course-specific mastery test with at least a "C" to earn credit for the course. The student will be tested on all curriculum standards and objectives for the subject and grade level to be covered within the current school year. The score the student earns on the test (percent score rounded up at .5), will be translated to a letter grade for the course according to the West Virginia uniform grading scale. The testing out grade will be counted in the student's cumulative grade point average and class ranking, and credit earned through this process will apply toward the credits required for high school graduation. Upon reviewing the test results, the student may decide to complete the course rather than use the testing out grade.

Once the results have been received by the student, s/he will have seven calendar days to indicate his/her decision related to receiving credit for the testing out exam. The student may choose one of two options:

- ❖ to have the test results forwarded to his/her school and if that is the case, the transcript course name will be coded to indicate that the student tested out of the class; or
- ❖ to take the standard course work at his/her school with no record of the attempt to test out sent to the home school.

Failure to exercise either of these options within the identified time frame will result in no test scores being forwarded to the school.

Credit and letter grades will be granted according to the grading scale designated in Preston County Schools R 3-22-3 *Uniform High School Grading Scale and Quality Points*.

### **Procedures**

- ❖ A student must complete an application and submit it to the school principal.
- ❖ The request must be made at least one semester prior to enrollment in the class(s) for credit courses and before the end of the second ten (10) week(s) in a school year for K-8 students.
- ❖ A request for mastery testing must be made in the sequence in which the student would normally take the course(s) or grade.
- ❖ Test administration may occur on Saturdays or evenings in a centralized location.
- ❖ The student will be notified of eligibility and if appropriate, the time and date of the test within two weeks of application.

### **Appeals Process**

Students with questions regarding their test scores should contact the RESA VII office within 7 days of receipt of the test scores to schedule a review appointment. The student will review their test at the RESA VII office. After initial review of the test, if more information is needed, an appointment will be scheduled with the test proctor to review the test and scoring.

[Home](#)

Adopted: August 24, 1998  
Amended/Revised: August 9, 2010