

7650-R Testing Program (Cf. 8940 et seq.)

Testing Out Procedures

Position Statement:

The Saline Area Schools have always supported and implemented policies for students with exceptional abilities to be placed in courses which best meet their intellectual capabilities. To this end, the revised school code governing "testing out" is being implemented at Saline High School.

The intent of "testing out" is to provide exceptionally able students options beyond what they might have if required to take basic level courses in which they have already mastered the material. The "testing out" process is not established for students to do independent study to gain the knowledge to pass the test. It is intended for students who have acquired the knowledge and skill, which are to be taught.

School Code for Testing Out

The Board of a school District shall grant high school credit in any course to a pupil enrolled in high school, but who is not enrolled in the course, who has exhibited a reasonable level of mastery of the subject matter of the course by attaining a grade of not less than a C+ in a final exam in the course, or, if there is not a final exam, by exhibiting that mastery through the basic assessment, used in the course which may consist of a portfolio, performance, paper, project, or presentation. For the purpose of earning credit under this section, any high school pupil may take the final examination in any course. Credit earned under this section shall be based on a "pass" grade and shall not be included in a computation of grade point average for any purpose. Credit earned under this section may or may not be counted toward graduation, as the Board of school District may determine, but the Board's determination shall apply equally to all such credit for all pupils and credit earned under this section shall be counted toward fulfillment of a requirement for a subject area course and shall be counted toward fulfillment of a requirement as to course sequence.

Once credit is earned under this section, a pupil may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in course sequence concerning the same subject area.

Section 1279e

The Board of a school District shall grant high school credit in a foreign language to a pupil enrolled in high school who has demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language outside of a public or private high school curriculum. Proficiency may be demonstrated by a competency test or other criteria established by the Board.

Clarification of Key Points in the Code

"Pupil enrolled in high school" refers to a student who is currently attending Saline High School or who is formally registered for the next semester. (This includes: Eighth graders from Saline Middle School and students from private or parochial school settings).

"Enrolled in the course" refers to a student who has registered and begun attending class sessions.

"Any course" refers to any semester and/or yearly curricular offering available to students enrolled at Saline High School; not to be confused with a class taught by a specific teacher.

All federally funded vocational programs are exempt. Any decisions regarding the vocational program will be done in conjunction with the South and West Washtenaw Consortium.

The requirements for "attaining a grade of not less than a C+" will be consistent with present practice and shall apply equally to all students attempting to test out of a course. These standards must be comparable to those used for the regular course.

The "final exam" is a comprehensive semester assessment that includes the essential student learnings of the course. Final exams can have multiple components (demonstrations, research papers, oral examinations, portfolios, paper/pencil, tests, etc.) as long as the same components are part of the comprehensive semester assessment for students taking the course in the normal fashion.

Implementation and the Impact of Testing Out at Saline High School

Credits earned by passing a course in this manner will not be counted toward the total credits needed to graduate. Credits earned in this manner will satisfy distribution requirements for graduation (i.e. United States History, Science 9, etc.). However, students are still required to meet the required number of credits in each subject/department area. For example, if a student were to test out of United States History, he/she would still have to successfully complete three credits of social studies. If they were to test out of Science 9, he/she would still have to complete Science 10 and one additional science credit.

Credits earned in this manner will not impact G.P.A. and will be recorded on the transcript as "testing out course" for test out and a "P" grade will be recorded. Teachers are not to provide any instruction to prepare students for tests. Each department will provide a syllabus so that students know what the test will cover and what additional items (demonstrations, research papers, portfolios, etc.) will be required as part of the comprehensive evaluation. A textbook will be available if desired with an appropriate deposit to check out the book. Students must return the book to take the testing out exam.

Procedure for Testing Out

1. Students will apply for testing out through an application process. Deadlines for applications, testing dates, picking up the course syllabus and textbooks will be made known through school announcements and school newsletters.
2. The course syllabus and textbooks will be made available to students who wish to test out. Students are responsible for getting all materials from teachers who are handling the testing out for their current area.
3. Before a student request to test out has been processed, a meeting is required with his/her counselor. The counselor may make a recommendation to either approve or deny the student request to test out based upon past performance, standardized testing and other information. This recommendation should then be reviewed by parents/guardians prior to a final request to test out.
4. A student is allowed one opportunity to test out.
5. Students are required to attend an informational meeting prior to taking their exam(s).