



To Salem Middle School Parent/Guardian:

According to NC State Board of Education policy GCS-A-016 <http://sbepolicy.dpi.state.nc.us/Policies/GCS-A-016.asp?pri=&cat=A&pol=016&acr=GCS> school districts must administer NC Final Exams (NCFEs) in Science and Social Studies each year. These Exams cover Grades 4, 6, and 7 in Science, and Grades 4-8 in Social Studies. For the past couple of years, WCPSS has had a waiver from the State Board of Education that has exempted us from having to administer NC Final Exams at the elementary and middle school levels in science and social studies. However, due to a change in state law, that waiver is no longer in effect, and as such, many WCPSS teachers in grades 4-8 will now have to give these Final Exams starting this year.

WCPSS has decided that these exams will only be given by teachers who do not also teach in an EOG or EOC-tested area in grades 4-8. We are aware that this approach will result in some students having to take a state test while others in the same grade level in our school may not have to do the same. We must administer these standardized tests to be in compliance with state mandates, but WCPSS made a decision that would be consistent across all middle schools and minimize additional standardized testing where possible.

What does that mean for SMS? EOG's have not changed; therefore all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will continue to take the ELA and MATH EOG and 8th grade students will take the Science EOG. Math I students will take the Math I EOC.

What is new?

- Students in grades 6 on all 4 tracks and students in grade 7 on tracks 1, 2, & 3 will take the Science AND SS North Carolina Final Exam (NCFE) as well as those above.
- Students in grade 7 on track 4 will only take the Science NCFE as well as those above.
- Students in grade 8 on tracks 1, 3, & 4 will take the SS NCFE as well as those above.
- Students in grade 8 on track 2 will NOT take the SS NCFE, just the tests above.
- Also, students taking Math 2 through NCVPS will take the Math 2 NCFE.

Why the difference on 7-4 and 8-2? Three teacher teams have two teachers who teach in an EOG area. The third teacher, the Science teacher, can test their team of students in Science. The students would not need to also take the SS NCFE. The two teacher team on 8-2 both teach in the EOG area.

For questions, please contact Karen Randle, the testing Testing Coordinator at 919-363-1870 or by email at krandle@wcpss.net.

Thank you,

Elaine Hofmann

Elaine Hofmann, Principal of Salem Middle School