

Middle School Student Progression

Enrollment

Full Time

Full-time middle school students must be enrolled in seven annual courses, or the equivalent; the instructional options include traditional and virtual courses via Hillsborough Virtual K-12 or Florida Virtual School.

Part Time

Part-time enrollment is limited to students co-enrolled in the Hospital/Homebound program or registered with the district for the Home Education program. Eligible students may enroll part time at the assigned attendance area school, an approved choice school, or a virtual school.

Course of Study

Grade 6	Grade 7 & 8
Language Arts	Language Arts
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
Reading	Physical Education
Physical Education	Electives (2)
Career Research and Decision Making, Semester 1 Elective Choice, Semester 2	

Academic Intervention Courses

Academic support courses are intended for students who need extended instruction in reading and/or mathematics and may be scheduled in place of an elective and/or physical education.

1. The intensive reading course is for students scoring below level 3 on the English Language Arts Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). This course is designed to accelerate the development of reading skills so that students are able to read grade-level text independently.
2. The intensive mathematics course is for students scoring at the lower range of level 1 on the Mathematics FSA. This course is designed to provide additional time and extended instruction for students to develop their mathematical skills and confidence.
3. The Algebra 1 support course is for students who are enrolled in Algebra 1 and scored at the lower range of level 3 on the prior year Mathematics FSA. This course provides extended instruction for students to develop mathematics skills required to meet the high school Algebra 1 graduation requirement.

Refer to the General Statements Assessment and Intervention Section and the Middle School Assessment section for additional information.

Career and Education Planning

Prior to promotion to grade 9, middle school students must complete one career planning course. The M/J U.S. History and Career Planning and the M/J Civics and Career Planning courses fulfill this requirement. (F.S. 1003.4156)

1. The Career and Education Planning course will:

- result in a personalized academic and career plan, that may be revised as the student progresses through middle and high school;
 - emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship and employability skills; and
 - include information from the Department of Economic Opportunity's economic security report and earning outcomes. (F.S. 445.07)
2. The personalized academic and career plan will inform students of the following:
- high school graduation and diploma designation requirements (F.S. 1003.4285);
 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements;
 - state university and Florida College System admission requirements; and
 - opportunities to earn college credit in high school, including: Advanced Placement courses; International Baccalaureate Program; Advanced International Certificate of Education Program (AICE); academic and career dual enrollment; and career education courses, including career-themed courses, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, and course sequences that lead to an industry certification. (F.S. 1003.492, F.S. 1008.44)

Civics

Civics is required as one of the three social studies courses for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8 and is normally scheduled as a grade 7 course. However, grade 8 students who have not completed the civics requirement are also scheduled in the course. Grade 8 students who transfer after the beginning of the second semester from an out-of-state school, private school, or home education program may be exempt from the civics course requirement, if the transcript reflects successful completion of three semesters or two annual social studies courses that include the civics education standards. (F.S.1003.4156)

The statewide, standardized End of Course (EOC) assessment in civics education constitutes 30% of the student's final course grade. Refer to the *Middle School, End of Course Exams* section for additional information. (F.S. 1008.22)

Physical Education

Florida law requires each school district to develop a physical education program that stresses physical fitness and encourages healthful, active lifestyles and to encourage all students in prekindergarten through grade 12 to participate in physical education. The law further requires a minimum of one semester of physical education annually for students in grades 6 through 8, F.S.1003.455.

Middle school students are scheduled for a full-year physical education course annually, except when a semester of physical education is paired with a semester of intensive math. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity within their school day to experience movement and build upon knowledge, skills, and values that support a healthy and active lifestyle.

However, the law allows for a waiver when a student is enrolled in a remedial, intensive course or when a parent makes a written request for one of the following reasons.

1. The student participates in physical activities outside the school day that are equal to, or in excess of, the physical education requirement.
2. The parent requests that the student enroll in another available course.

Students who waive physical education must enroll in another available on-site or virtual course. (F.S. 1003.455) A minimum of seven courses is required for full-time middle school students.

Academic Acceleration

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) Options

ACCEL options provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction for eligible students and may include enriched STEM coursework, enrichment programs, flexible grouping,

advanced academic courses, combined classes, self-paced instruction, curriculum compacting, and advanced-content instruction.

The following ACCEL options are available for all eligible middle school students:

- whole-grade and midyear promotion;
- subject-matter acceleration;
- virtual instruction in higher-grade level subjects; and
- the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP).

The following factors are considered when determining eligibility for ACCEL options:

- performance on district, state, or other standardized assessment(s);
- coursework completed and grade point average;
- attendance and conduct record; and
- recommendations from a core-curricula teacher and school counselor.

The principal, or designee, will notify the parent when a student is being considered for participation in an ACCEL option. Parents may also request consideration for an ACCEL option by contacting the school counselor or administrator. (F.S.1002.3105)

Accelerated Mathematics Pathways

The Accelerated Mathematics Pathways provide opportunities for eligible students to earn high school mathematics credit(s) in middle school and to earn college credit(s) in high school.

1. Algebra Acceleration Pathway

- a. In grades 6 and 7, students are enrolled in M/J Accelerated Math Grade 6 and M/J Accelerated Math Grade 7, respectively.
- b. In grade 8, students are enrolled in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors. Placement is based on proficiency as indicated on the Grade 7 Mathematics Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), or the equivalent.

2. Algebra and Geometry Acceleration Pathway (Double Acceleration)

- a. In grade 6 students are enrolled in M/J Accelerated Math Grade 6 and M/J Accelerated Math Grade 7 simultaneously. The grade 6 course is scheduled on site, and the grade 7 course is normally scheduled through Hillsborough Virtual K-12. Students take the Grade 7 Mathematics FSA at the end of grade 6. In some cases, students may be exempt from the M/J Accelerated Math Grade 6 course based on a combination of the following indicators:
 - score level 4 or 5 on the Mathematics Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for the prior two years;
 - score 80% or higher on district mathematics double accelerated placement test; and
 - demonstrate self-motivation, aptitude and focus for a rigorous pace and content as indicated by teacher recommendation and/or other student data, including prior report cards.
- b. In grade 7 students are enrolled in Algebra I Honors. Placement is based on course performance and proficiency as indicated on the Grade 7 Mathematics Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), or the equivalent. Students take Algebra 1 End of Course Exam (EOC) at the end of grade 7. Students must earn a level 3 or higher on EOC or the equivalent to meet the high school graduation requirement.
- c. In grade 8 students are enrolled in Geometry Honors. Placement is based on successful completion of Algebra 1 Honors. Students take the Geometry EOC at the end of grade 8.

Refer to the Middle School Education, Middle School Students Enrolled in High School Credit Courses section for additional information.

Non-traditional Course of Study

The course of study for middle school students may be modified to provide appropriate academic intervention for over-age students previously retained in kindergarten through grade 8. This option includes the opportunity to earn high school credit prior to grade 9 placement.

State Assessments

Students are required by statute to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. Refer to the *Exceptional Student Education, Assessment and Waivers* section for additional information. (F.S. 1008.22)

1. Students in grades 6 through 8 are administered the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), except in cases where students are enrolled in a mathematics course requiring an EOC. Students who score below level 3 on statewide assessments may be recommended for remedial instruction.
2. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry will be administered the FS-aligned, End of Course (EOC) exam in place of the Mathematics FSA. Refer to the *Middle School, End of Course Exams* section for additional information.
3. Students enrolled in Civics are administered the NGSSS-aligned EOC assessment.
4. Students in grade 8 are administered the NGSSS-aligned Florida Statewide Science Assessment (SSA), except in cases where students are enrolled in a science course requiring an EOC.

Course Grades

Grading Scale

The grading scale and interpretation of letter grades in grade 6 through 12 are defined by state statute as described in the following chart. (F.S. 1003.437)

Grade	Scale	Quality Points	Description
A	90%-100%	4	Outstanding Progress
B	80%-89%	3	Above Average Progress
C	70%-79%	2	Average Progress
D	60%-69%	1	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0%-59%	0	Failure

Course Grade Criteria

1. Middle school courses require a district semester exam or a state End of Course (EOC) exam, with the exception of Career Research and Decision Making and specialized electives. District exams are weighted at 25% of the semester grade; EOC exams are weighted at 30%. Refer to the *Middle School, Grade Calculation Chart* section for additional information.
2. The semester final grade is calculated by converting the two quarter grades and the district-scaled semester exam to quality points, which are weighted and averaged. For courses that do not require an exam, the two quarter grades are converted to quality points and averaged.
3. To pass a semester middle school course, students must:
 - earn a minimum of two quality points (.5 or higher weighted semester average) and pass at least one of the quarter grades; or
 - score a B or higher on the semester exam grade (refer to the grade calculation chart).

4. To pass a middle school semester course that does not require an exam, students must earn a minimum of two quality points.

Make-up Exams

1. Students who do not take a required district semester exam will receive a temporary "I" (Incomplete) exam grade and an "F" semester grade.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the make-up exam with the teacher or assistant principal. The make-up exam window will be available through the end of the following semester.
 - b. After the make-up exam window closes, the student must appeal to the principal for an exception to make-up an exam.
 - c. If the student does not make up the exam by the end of the following semester, the exam grade will default to an "FI" and will be calculated as an "F". The final semester grade and GPA will be recalculated.
2. Students who did not take a required EOC exam, will receive a temporary "NG" (No Grade) exam and semester grade. To receive course credit, the student must take the exam.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the make-up exam with the teacher or school counselor during the next available state assessment window.
 - b. The grade will remain an "NG" and credit will be withheld until the exam is taken. Refer to the *High School, Grade Enhancement* section for information regarding retakes.

End of Course Exams

The state standards and course descriptions specify the expectations for student learning in Florida and provide the basis for the content that will be measured on each Florida End of Course (EOC) assessment. EOC assessments are computer-based, criterion-referenced assessments that measure the Florida Standards (FS) or the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for specific courses, as outlined in the course descriptions.

1. EOC exams are required and scheduled in place of the district semester two exam for Civics, Algebra 1, and Geometry. Refer to the *High School, End of Course Exams* section for a complete list of high school credit EOC courses.
2. For courses that require an EOC, the district-scaled semester 1 exam and the EOC exam are calculated as 30% of the corresponding semester grade.
3. Final grades for semester two cannot be determined until EOC scores are received from the state. Therefore, final grades and transcripts are re-calculated and updated after report cards are published.
4. If a student takes an EOC exam, the report card reflects temporary grades for the exam and the semester average. The exam is reported as an "E" grade, and the semester average is reported as a temporary "P", "NG", or "F" semester grade, based on the student's quarter grades.
 - a. The "P" grade is assigned, and the .50 credit is awarded when the quarter grades meet the minimum criteria to pass the course. If a student's EOC is invalidated by the state, the exam and final grade is replaced with an "NG" and the course credit is removed. The student would be required to retake the exam to meet promotion and/or graduation requirements.
 - b. The "NG" grade is assigned, and credit is withheld when the quarter grades do not meet the minimum criteria to pass the course; passing the course is contingent upon the EOC results.
 - c. The "F" grade combined with an "E" exam grade is assigned when the quarter grades do not meet the minimum criteria to pass the course. The exam grade will be updated to reflect EOC results, but the student may be required to retake the course to meet the graduation requirements and/or to earn credit.

5. If a student enrolled in an EOC course did not take the required exam, the report card reflects a "NG" exam and semester grade. To receive course credit, the student must take the exam. It is the student's responsibility to request testing in the next available state assessment window. Refer to the *High School, Grade Enhancement* section for information regarding retakes.

The student is encouraged to attend the Extended School Year (ESY) program if the student has failed a course or has not taken the EOC exam.

Middle School Students Enrolled in High School Credit Courses

1. Grades earned for high school credit courses are included in the student's high school grade point average (GPA) and appear on the high school transcript. Course placement for students who are not performing at or above a C average should be reviewed. Refer to the High School, *Grade Point Average* section for more information.
2. The grade enhancement policy for high school credit courses taken prior to grade 9, allows students to replace a grade of C or below with a grade of C or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. The replaced grade is excluded in the cumulative, unweighted state GPA required for graduation, but is included in the cumulative, weighted district GPA used to determine rank in class.
3. Enrollment in high school credit courses that are not offered at the middle school level within the district requires prior approval by the student's principal and the Executive Director of Instructional Leadership for Middle School. The parent should request approval in writing to the principal. The principal will contact the executive director who will facilitate the review of the request. The parent will receive the final decision through the school principal.
4. Middle school students are not eligible for high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The AP label cannot be affixed to courses and transcripts earlier than grade 9, per College Board Policy. There is one exception to this policy: AP world language and culture courses. These courses focus on linguistic proficiency and cultural competency, so in rare situations these courses can be successfully offered earlier than grade 9 among students who can already speak, read, and write the language with fluency. Prior approval is required as stated above.

Grade Reporting

1. The online grade reporting system provides parents or guardians and students with access to monitor academic progress. Parents or guardians may initiate communication or request a conference with a teacher by email or phone.
2. By the end of the fifth week of each grading period, Interim Progress Reports or Scholarship Warnings are issued through online or written communication to students in jeopardy of failing a course. Communication should be documented through email or a signed progress report.
3. Quarterly progress reports (report cards) with course grades are posted through the online grade-reporting system. Each grading period is approximately nine-weeks in length. Fourth quarter progress reports include the student's promotion or retention status.

Honor Roll Criteria

Honor rolls are determined based on a student's academic and conduct quarter grades when the student is enrolled in a minimum of four district courses.

1. The Principal's Honor Roll is awarded to students earning A's for all academic and conduct grades.
2. The High Honor Roll is awarded to students earning a minimum of three A's and no grade lower than a B for academic and conduct grades.
3. The Honor Roll is awarded to students earning B's or higher for academic and conduct grades.

Grade Calculation Chart

Middle School Semester Course Grades			
Quarter Grade	Middle School Courses	Civics	Final Semester Grade
Combinations	District Exam	EOC Exam	
	25%	30%	
A,A	A,B,C	A,B	A
A,A	D*,F	C,D,F	B
A,B	A	A	A
A,B	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	B
A,B		F	C
A,C	A,B,C,D	A,B,C	B
A,C	F*	D,F	C
A,D	A,B	A,B	B
A,D	C,D,F	C,D,F	C
A,F	A*	A	B
A,F	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	C
A,F		F	D
B,B	A,B,C,D	A,B,C	B
B,B	F*	D,F	C
B,C	A,B	A,B	B
B,C	C,D,F	C,D,F	C
B,D	A*	A	B
B,D	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	C
B,D		F	D
B,F	A,B,C	A,B,C	C
B,F	D,F	D,F	D
C,C	A*	A	B
C,C	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	C
C,C		F	D
C,D	A,B,C	A,B,C	C
C,D	D,F	D,F	D
C,F	A*,B*	A,B	C
C,F	C,D,F	C,D,F	D
D,D	A*,B*	A,B	C
D,D	C,D,F	C,D,F	D
D,F		A	C
D,F	A,B,C,D	B,C,D	D
D,F	F	F	F
F,F	A,B	A,B	D
F,F	C,D,F	C,D,F	F

High School Credit Semester Course Grades			
Quarter Grade	High School Credit	High School Credit	Final Semester Grade
Combinations	District Exam	EOC Exam	
	25%	30%	
A,A	A,B,C	A,B	A
A,A	D,F	C,D,F	B
A,B	A	A	A
A,B	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	B
A,B		F	C
A,C	A,B,C,D	A,B,C	B
A,C	F	D,F	C
A,D	A,B	A,B	B
A,D	C,D,F	C,D,F	C
A,F	A	A	B
A,F	B,C,D	B,C,D	C
A,F	F	F	F
B,B	A,B,C,D	A,B,C	B
B,B	F	D,F	C
B,C	A,B	A,B	B
B,C	C,D,F	C,D,F	C
B,D	A	A	B
B,D	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	C
B,D		F	D
B,F	A,B,C	A,B,C	C
B,F	D	D	D
B,F	F	F	F
C,C	A	A	B
C,C	B,C,D,F	B,C,D	C
C,C		F	D
C,D	A,B,C	A,B,C	C
C,D	D,F	D,F	D
C,F	A,B	A,B	C
C,F	C,D	C,D	D
C,F	F	F	F
D,D	A,B	A,B	C
D,D	C,D,F	C,D,F	D
D,F		A	C
D,F	A,B,C,D	B,C,D	D
D,F	F	F	F
F,F	A,B,C,D,F	A,B,C,D,F	F

A student who does not take a required exam will receive an "I" grade for a district exam or a "NG" for an EOC exam. Refer to *Middle School, Make-up Exams* section for additional information.

* Indicates changes effective for the 2019-2020.

Promotion Requirements

Promotion and/or retention is determined when final grades are submitted at the end of the regular academic year. (F.S.1008.25)

1. Middle school students must pass language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies to meet annual promotion requirements.
2. To be promoted to high school, middle school students must meet the following cumulative requirements:
 - successful completion of three middle school, or higher level, courses in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, to include one civics education course and one career planning course; and
 - a personalized academic and career plan. (F.S. 1003.4156) Refer to the *Middle School Career and Education Planning Requirement* section for additional information.
3. Students scoring a level 3 or higher on the Algebra 1 EOC exam meet the promotion requirement for the corresponding mathematics course.

If a student does not meet promotion requirements, exceptions may be considered per special placement procedures. Refer to the *General Statements, Grade Level Placement* section for additional information.

Extended Learning and Extended School Year Programs

The Extended Learning Program (ELP) provides supplemental tutorial, grade enhancement, and course recovery support.

1. Tutorial support provides non-credit, academic intervention for middle school students scoring below level 3 on the FSA English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics and for students in need of assistance with advanced studies.
2. Grade enhancement provides an opportunity for students to earn one quality point (grade of P) in place of a failing quarter grade for the corresponding course. ELP grade enhancement does not apply to high school credit courses.
3. Course recovery provides an opportunity for students who were administratively placed in the current grade to make-up a failing semester grade for a required sixth or seventh grade course.

The Extended School Year (ESY) program provides a summer, course recovery option for students to meet the promotion requirements.

Related Program Information

Refer to *English Language Learners, Exceptional Student Education, Virtual Instruction Programs, Home Education, and Workforce Connections* sections for specific program information.