



MANSFIELD R-IV SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE LIONS

Sept. 7, 2017

Dear parents/guardians:

I need to forward you information we received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This involves End-of-Course exams which MHS students took last April, specifically the Algebra I and English II assessments. If you are receiving this letter then your student did take the ALG I and/or ENG II EOC assessments in the spring 2017 semester.

In mid July 2017 DESE informed school districts there were potential “problems” with the ALG I and ENG II assessments. At that time DESE formed a technical advisory committee (TAC) to investigate the matter. Then on Aug. 29th DESE let superintendents and secondary administrators know the TAC findings. The TAC concluded the results of the ALG I and ENG II tests did not produce “year-to-year comparable results.” So, your main question is likely about how this affects your student? To that question DESE has stated:

- Most of the effect of this situation is internal and does not directly influence students. The problem is with comparable data, meaning the 2017 EOC data is not comparable to previous years EOC data.
- Educators can use the raw scores from those assessments. This is commonly done when determining course grades. That is because the EOC is also the cumulative final exam in the corresponding classes.
- Districts may also use student End-of-Course (EOC) scores for determining A+ scholarship eligibility.
- For students who took the Algebra I and English II EOCs, the participation requirement has been met.
- Students do not need to retake these tests.
- Last year’s EOC tests have been retired. Missouri educators have been developing mathematics and English language arts assessments which will be administered this year.

Mansfield High School is reviewing the available raw data from these two state assessments. Our primary focus is to determine if there were any inconsistencies with course grades as a result of the EOC data used. To accomplish this we are comparing pre-EOC and post-EOC grades. If there are discrepancies the grade may be changed. We would only make such changes if it were to the students’ benefit.

I hope this information has been timely and explains the situation adequately. As always, if you have any questions please contact me. With that said, also know this is an ongoing issue, and I am sure there will be more to come as DESE now shifts to working with districts to determine their annual performance reports (APR).

Respectfully,

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