



Home School Competency Testing

The following information has been compiled to aid patrons in understanding the procedures guiding the Home School Competency Testing Program of the Boise School District.

High school students coming from a home schooling environment should have received instruction comparable to approximately 70 hours per credit in a given subject area. Students must demonstrate competency in the area of study by passing home school competency tests offered by the Boise School District.

High school students coming from an accredited or non-accredited institution, for whatever reason, must have been unenrolled for a minimum of six (6) months to be eligible to take competency tests. This includes students who have exceeded the 90% attendance rule or have been suspended from an accredited or non-accredited institution, including the Boise School District.

With some exceptions, each test reflects a semester of subject content and is worth one (1) credit towards meeting graduation requirements. Test results become part of the students' permanent records and are figured into their GPA. Retakes are permitted only after six (6) months from the date of failing a competency test. This time frame allows for remedial work in the subject area.

The Boise School District's Competency tests are not "challenge" tests. Competency tests validate the home schooled student's proficiency after studying subject matter congruent to that in courses offered by the Boise School District.

Grades earned on competency tests may be improved in summer school, or by other regular means available to all Boise School District students. Competency tests shall not be administered to improve existing grades. The Home School Competency Testing Program does not administer standardized tests, such as the ITBS or TAP.

Competency Testing Procedures

1. Tests are kept on file at the Educational Services Center and updated periodically to reflect the particular course curriculum.
2. When identified and requested by administrators or counselors, tests are copied and sent to secondary schools for administration. Tests are administered at the Educational Services Center when other arrangements cannot be made or at the request of the Content Area Supervisor.
3. A test "time-frame" of 4 weeks begins the date the counselor receives the test, after which the student waives the privilege to take the test.
4. Content area supervisors are charged with grading and scoring home school competency tests. Results are sent to the principal and counselor at the appropriate school.
5. Students receive one (1) credit for each one-semester, competency test passed. The credit and corresponding grade earned are recorded on the student's transcript in accordance with the district's grading policy.
6. A student who fails a competency test receives "No Credit," which is recorded on the transcript. The "No Credit" does not figure into the GPA.
7. A six-month waiting period is required prior to a "retake." This time frame gives the home schooled student time to remediate in the subject matter.
8. Results are kept on file at the ESC and filed electronically at Records.

Please Note

The District administers tests only on the recommendation of a counselor or other school official, following a counselor's review and credit analysis of the student's coursework. Requests for testing, tests, and test results, will be communicated among relevant school district officials, only. This is to ensure proper communication of protected information and to ensure that a qualified school official has made an analysis of students' needs. Parents/guardians seeking test results should contact the appropriate counselor or school administrator. Questions concerning appropriate course translations/equivalence should be addressed to Dean Jones, Administrator of Instruction.

Tests may be administered to students who are entering our system, who are enrolled in our district but not enrolled in the courses being tested, and those who are leaving our system for another district. As a courtesy, Boise Schools also administers tests to students in other districts/schools when a formal request is made by an official representing the other district/school.

Test results reported to other districts/schools are communicated as percentages, only. Boise Schools does not presume to assign a letter grade or credit for home school competency tests requested by other schools/districts.

Circumstances may necessitate the evaluation of certain situations on an individual basis as determined by the Area Directors or other administrative personnel.

The Boise School District offers Competency Tests on a "per semester" basis for the following subjects:

Foreign Language

- French 1
- French 2
- Japanese 1
- Japanese 2
- Spanish 1
- Spanish 2

Language Arts

- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12

Mathematics

- Mathematics 9
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry

Mathematics (continued)

- Accelerated Math Analysis
- Mathematics in the Workplace

Occupational Program

- Computer Applications 1 (One Semester Course)

Science

- Earth Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physical Science

Social Studies

- U.S. History 9
- U.S. History 11
- American Government
- American Economics (1 Semester)
- History of Western Civilization

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