

## Ann Arbor Public Schools Implementation Guidelines State Graduation Requirements for Biology

- There are new state requirements for how students receive credit in Biology for the class of 2011 and beyond
- Under the new law, the state has defined High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) for each required course.
- The process for awarding credit must include an assessment of student performance on the HSCEs. For our Biology course, this will be a Common Assessment given as a semester exam.
- Ann Arbor Public Schools has provided three pathways for different learners to achieve successful completion for credit that include this Common Assessment.

Option 1: Pass the Common Assessment with a score of 70% or higher

Option 2: Earn a 60% or higher weighted average of the Common Assessment (weighted 20%) and the unit assessments, labs, and other course material (weighted 80%)

Option 3: Documented successful completion of 80% of the HSCEs and participation in the Common Assessment.

- Classroom teachers will continue to determine the student's letter grade, but any student who completes one of the three options will receive a passing grade (A-D).
- Students who have not yet successfully completed one of the three options will NOT yet have credit for the course and will have a Status Code of "Z" for the course. The Status Code "Z" means that the student has not yet successfully completed the requirements for high school credit. The student will need to meet with his/her teacher and counselor to develop a plan for completing the credit in the succeeding semester or during summer school. *The plans may vary depending on how close the student is to a passing score. For example, a first semester student very close to passing might continue the class second semester with the teacher monitoring achievement of any missing HSCEs. Other students may need to add a support class or retake the class.*

The Status Code Z must be converted to a letter grade (A, B, C, D, E) by the end of the next semester or summer school. Students who receive an E at this point will NOT receive credit for the course and must retake the course.

Example: If a student falls short in 1<sup>st</sup> semester, then they have until the end

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of the next semester to meet the requirements for credit. Likewise, if a student falls short in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester then they have until the end of first semester of the following year to meet the requirements for credit.