

# Fast Facts

## about High School

### District Course Assessments (DCAs)

*Beginning in the fall of 2007, students must pass District Course Assessments to earn credit as part of the Federal Way School Board's policy for high school graduation requirements. The requirement applies to core courses that all students must take and pass in order to earn a high school diploma from high schools in Federal Way Public Schools. The purpose of this new requirement is to ensure that students are mastering Secondary Course Expectations adopted by the Federal Way School Board.*

#### **1 How is this requirement different than what was previously required?**

Up until the class of 2007, students were required to pass minimum competency tests for basic skills such as reading and mathematics. The new requirement aligns assessments with standards set for specific courses. These standards are called Secondary Course Expectations. Course Expectations can be found on the district website at the following location: [www.fwps.org/cur/secexp/](http://www.fwps.org/cur/secexp/) A hard copy version can also be obtained at each high school.

#### **2 When are these assessments administered?**

For most high schools, the test window for these District Course Assessments is May 19-30. For Todd Beamer High School, the test window is January 14-18 as well as May 19-30.

#### **3 How does a student earn credit?**

In order to receive full credit for the course, students must earn at least a "C-" grade and pass the District Course Assessment.

#### **4 What specific courses will have these District Course Assessments?**

For 2007-08: English 9, Algebra, Geometry, and a pilot Science 9 test

By 2011-2012, District Course Assessments will be required for each of the following courses:

- Grade 9: English, Algebra, Geometry, Science 9, Pacific Regions
- Grade 10: English, Biology, World History
- Grade 11: U.S. History
- Grade 12: Civics

#### **5 Who is affected by this change?**

All students in the class of 2011 and beyond must meet this requirement.



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## *Fast Facts about High School District Course Assessments (DCAs)*

### **What is covered on the assessments?**

Each assessment has questions that address a sampling of the Secondary Course Expectations.

### **What is the passing score for these assessments?**

A student must earn a score of 70% for each test, which is equivalent to a “C-” grade.

### **What happens if a student does not pass a required assessment?**

A student will earn a grade of “I” (Incomplete) until they pass the test. Students will be provided an opportunity to retake the test. Students must sign up with their Curriculum Assistant Principal for retakes, which will be given during the second and fourth weeks of June, and the first week of August (contact your Curriculum Assistant Principal for specific times and locations). Todd Beamer High School will conduct retakes during the first and third weeks of February (contact your Curriculum Assistant Principal for specific times and locations).

### **What about students receiving Special Education and ELL services?**

The accommodations for District Course Assessments are similar to those offered for the WASL. Generally, this means that a student will receive the same test accommodations as those that are part the student’s instructional program.

