



Frequently Asked Questions For Students Enrolled in English I in Middle School

Q: What are the benefits of enrolling in a high school course in middle school?

A: The benefits include:

- Acceleration opportunities in English/Language Arts in middle school*
- Challenging coursework which helps prepare middle school students for advanced courses in high school*
- Enhances student's transcript (i.e., rigorous courses)*

Q: Can a student or family opt out of English I in middle school?

A: Yes. English I is not mandatory for middle school students. According to State Board of Education policy GCS-C-003, "Students may drop a course with an end-of-course (EOC) assessment within the first 10 days of a block schedule or within the first 20 days of a traditional schedule." If you feel that it is in the best interests of your child to take middle school 8th grade/Language Arts rather than English I, please contact the building principal prior to September 21, 2010.

Q: Why did Orange County Schools decide to offer English I for high school credit in each middle school?

*A: The State Board of Education recently made it possible for middle school students to enroll in English I for high school credit. This is a new opportunity for middle school students who are prepared to take advanced coursework. According to State Board of Education policy GCS-M-001, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, students who pass English I during grades 6-8 as described in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12 must achieve level III or IV on an EOC to meet the high school English graduation requirement. The course will count toward graduation requirements, however; the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken **only** during the high school years.*

Q: Are the middle school teachers certified to teach English I?

A: In order to teach English I, the middle school Language Arts teacher must be certified to teach ninth grade English. The teachers selected to teach English I in each middle school are certified to teach high school English and each of our teachers have experience teaching at the high school level.

Q: If a student enrolls in a high school course in middle school, how will it impact the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA)?

*A: According to the State Board of Education, the courses will count toward satisfying graduation requirements, but the student's Grade Point Average will be computed with courses taken **only** during the high school years.*

Q: Can a student receive honors level credit for enrolling in a high school course in middle school?

A: No. The State Board of Education does not allow students to receive weighted credit (or honors level credit) for high school courses that are completed in middle school.

Q: What is the criterion for taking English I in 8th grade?

A: A student must meet three out of four:

- 95% or higher on seventh grade EOG*
- EVAAS data (For more information, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/evaas>)*
- Teacher/AIG Specialist recommendation*
- "A" average in seventh grade Language Arts*

Q: What happens if a student does not pass English I in middle school?

A: Each school district is required to use the results from all End-of-Course (EOC) assessments as twenty-five percent (25%) of the student's final grade. If a student fails the EOC assessment, a retest is administered. Students who fail English I in middle school are required to retake the course in high school.

Q: Will students receive middle school credit or high school credit?

A: *The students enrolled in English I at the middle school will receive a grade on their report card each nine weeks for English I. As noted in a previous question, these students will have English I counted toward satisfying their high school graduation requirements and that course credit will be noted on their high school transcript. However, as previously noted, this grade will not be counted as part of their high school GPA.*

Q: If a student is enrolled in English I in middle school, will it impact participation in the district’s International Baccalaureate (IB) Program?

A: *No. However, students who wish to enroll in IB will be required to take the following course sequence:*

International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme

Required Course Sequence

<i>8th grade</i>	<i>English I</i>
<i>9th grade</i>	<i>English II</i>
<i>10th grade</i>	<i>English elective (with weighted credit)</i>
<i>11th grade</i>	<i>IB course</i>
<i>12th grade</i>	<i>IB course</i>

Q: What is the course sequence for students who enroll in English I in middle school?

A: *Each student who completes the requirements for English I will take English II (tenth grade English) in the ninth grade. The district staff is still reviewing additional options for high school students. Orange County Schools will continue to provide challenging coursework throughout the sequence.*

Possible Course Sequences Include:

<i>8th grade</i>	<i>English I</i>
<i>9th grade</i>	<i>English II</i>
<i>10th grade</i>	<i>An English elective (with weighted credit)</i>
<i>11th grade</i>	<i>English III</i>
<i>12th grade</i>	<i>English IV</i>

<i>8th grade</i>	<i>English I</i>
<i>9th grade</i>	<i>English II</i>
<i>10th grade</i>	<i>English III</i>
<i>11th grade</i>	<i>English IV (AP or IB courses)</i>
<i>12th grade</i>	<i>AP or IB courses, or UNC-G iSchool course</i>

<i>8th grade</i>	<i>English I</i>
<i>9th grade</i>	<i>English II</i>
<i>10th grade</i>	<i>An English elective (with weighted credit)</i>
<i>11th grade</i>	<i>Honors, AP, IB course, or UNC-G iSchool course</i>
<i>12th grade</i>	<i>Honors, AP, IB course, or UNC-G iSchool course</i>

If you have questions regarding English I for high school credit in middle school, please contact Steven Weber, Director of Secondary Instruction at (919) 245-4000, ext. 17501 or steven.weber@orange.k12.nc.us, or Ann Winer, AIG Coordinator, at (919) 644-3200, ext. 12640 or ann.winer@orange.k12.nc.us.