

High School Student Planning Guide FAQs

1. To be included in [Transitional 9th Grade](#), does the student have to attend summer remediation?

Yes

2. What is the process for considering out of state/country 9th grade students for Transitional 9th Grade?

There are plans to send to BESE a policy allowing the receiving school more flexibility in placement for these students. Currently it would be allowable for a school to place these students in Transitional 9th Grade prior to Oct. 1 providing requirements have been met.

3. As a relatively small parish, I have received transfer 9th grade student records which would have classified a student as T9 in OUR school system. However, these students are coming from larger parishes where they were not classified as T9. Can that status be changed when that student transfers into my school?

Yes, if the student(s) has met the summer remediation requirement.

4. Based on the table on page 6 of the [High School Student Planning Guidebook](#), it seems that Transitional 9th Grade and [ACT 833](#) students only need 14 Carnegie units to graduate. Is this accurate?

Students must meet graduation requirements of 23 Carnegie units for Jump Start Tops Tech Career Diploma or 24 Carnegie units for TOPS University Diploma. 14 core academic courses plus the 9 dedicated CTE courses totals 23.

5. Can student declare for the [Jump Start Pathway](#) in the 9th grade or do they have to wait until the end of the 10th grade?

Students may declare Jump Start in 9th grade

- 6. At what grade should students/their parents be told that they will qualify for the Act 833 waivers? Students in our system are being told in 9th or 10th grade before they even try to pass an EOC test. That seems to prevent them from being motivated to pass the [EOC](#) if they know that they don't really "have to" pass it.**

Students may qualify entering 9th grade under ACT 833 based on the three most recent years of standardized testing. If they are qualified at that point, the IEP team should be working to prepare a plan for the student.

- 7. If a student earns enough credits in the Transitional 9th Grade year to be considered a sophomore, can the district code the student as a sophomore while remaining in the original cohort to which he is supposed to be assigned?**

Yes

- 8. How do DCAI points calculate into the School Performance Score? Do the credits earned by Transitional 9th graders count toward DCAI?**

Yes, credits earned by Transitional 9th grade students count toward the dropout credit accumulation index. The Carnegie credits earned by transitional 9th grader are analogous to that of a first-time 9th grader. This is done to incentivize Transitional 9th grade students not only taking coursework to address academic gaps but also to earn high school credits. Transitional 9th grader students have through the end of their Transitional 9th Grade year to earn Carnegie credits for the dropout credit accumulation index. Credits earned by the transitional 9th grader during their first time 9th grade year are not included towards DCAI.

- 9. A Transitional 9th Grade student enters the cohort the year after the Transitional 9th Grade year. Are these students only enrolled as 9th graders during the Transitional 9th Grade year if they earned enough credits during that year to become 10th grade students?**

The student(s) may be enrolled as a 10th grader(s) if the student(s) has earned enough Carnegie units.

- 10. What happens if a Transitional 9th Grade student takes the EOC and does not pass, will the next test be considered a retest and will the score count if they pass?**

EOC scores for Transitional 9th grade students are "counted," or transferred, the same as students who take EOC exams in middle school.

- 11. I received some information regarding Transitional 9th Grade students along the lines of if we find that the students are performing well academically and can handle the course work, we can change the classification of the T9 student in what would have been their sophomore year. If this is true, how does this affect the school's graduation cohort rate?**

Once a student enters Transitional 9th Grade, the student has 5 years to complete graduation requirements. These students will attach to that graduation cohort.

- 12. What about [ELL](#) students who enter for the first time and speak no English. Can these students be placed in Transitional 9th Grade?**

LEAs have the autonomy to determine appropriate placement criteria.

- 13. If a school receives a student in 11th grade and the student does not complete 12th the next year, will the school be tag with this student as being a part of the school's cohort?**

If the student was at this school or at any school in the district on October 1 of the third year, then the student would be assigned to the school where the student was enrolled in that district on October 1 of the fourth year.

- 14. Do LAA-1 students have to participate in Summer Remediation to be classified as Transitional 9th Grade?**

These students do not have to participate in Transitional 9th Grade.

- 16. [WorkKeys](#)[®] has been a great assessment tool for us thus far. Do we predict that more employers and institutions will actually see value in this assessment? It would be nice to be able to add credibility to the assessment by telling students that employers actually consider WorkKeys[®] a viable measure of career readiness.**

Yes, the WorkKeys[®] assessment is gaining popularity in our state and around the country.

17. **Is there a DOE form (like there was for transfer to Basic) that shows the student is "opting out" of the TOPS University diploma plan?**

Yes, the [Individual Graduation Plan](#)

18. **How do we handle students who want to opt into JumpStart after 10th grade?**

The student's diploma pathway selection should be entered into STS and should be scheduled accordingly.

19. **Will schools be penalized for students not taking Geometry if they are on the JumpStart pathway and do not need Geometry as one of the math requirements?**

The student will not be penalized, but the student will be required to pass the Algebra I EOC prior to graduation.

20. **For the Jump Start diploma, can Business Math count as 1 of the 4 math courses required?**

Yes; reference page 21 of the [High School Student Planning Guidebook](#).

For more information on the 2015-16 High School Student Planning Guidebook, please contact:

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