

Test Eligibility: FAQ's

THE THREE BELIEFS:

I believe that homework assignments are independent practice. The students who take the time to work through the assignments and make correctives should be successful on tests. **I believe** that high school students must be enabled to learn to be responsible for their own learning. They can only learn responsibility when they are consistently held accountable for the choices they make. **I believe** each test is the “celebration” of learning. Students who have worked hard will have much to celebrate and those who have not worked will have nothing to celebrate.

Patricia Boland

1. **What is the rationale for test eligibility?** The introduction of this system has enabled students to understand the connection between grades, independent assignments, and learning. They are rewarded for taking responsibility for their own learning. The teacher does not have to waste time grading tests of students who fail because they have chosen to not prepare for the tests.
2. **What is a “test ticket assignment”?** A test ticket assignment is any written task the teacher feels is vital to the learning of the objectives covered on the next test. The students who have completed all of the test ticket assignments are eligible to take the test on test day. Those students who have not completed the test ticket assignments are not eligible to take the test on test day. They are also not eligible for retesting.
3. **Are all homework assignments test ticket assignments?** No, only the assignments that are critical to mastering the content are test ticket assignments. There are times when only part of an assignment is a test ticket assignment. It is crucial that students are told whether each assignment is a test ticket assignment when it is assigned. UNIT REVIEW ASSIGNMENTS ARE ALWAYS TEST TICKET ASSIGNMENTS. A HOMEWORK PASS CAN NEVER BE USED ON THEM.
4. **Does this mean that students can wait until the night before the test to complete their assignments?** Absolutely not. Because opting out of completing homework is a behavior issue, students who choose to not complete a homework assignment are assigned to noon detention. They may exchange a homework pass for the noon detention only after they show

up for the detention. (Teachers can take turns being in charge of noon detention.)

5. **When are test tickets issued?** Students can exchange test ticket assignments for the test ticket starting the day before the test. These students can start their test as soon as they get to class on test day. Other students can make the exchange at the beginning of the period on test day.
6. **What do the students do during the class period if they do not have test ticket assignments completed on test day?** These students work on the missing assignments. The teacher can help them with questions or reteaching while the rest of the students work on their tests. They can also work on the assignments during noon detention.
7. **When do students take the test if they are not eligible on test day?** Ineligible students have two days to take the test. They still must have the assignments completed before they can start the test. If I am not available for after school testing, they may take the test with another math teacher.
8. **What if they never come in for testing?** After two days, ineligible students get a zero on the test.
9. **How do you handle retesting?** Students who are not eligible on test day are not eligible for retesting. Why should students who refuse to work the day to day assignments be rewarded with second chances?
10. **What do you do with the test ticket assignments after they are exchanged for test tickets?** If a student fails the test, the test ticket assignments are used for reteaching purposes. I will have a heart to heart with the student to find out how it is possible for the student to complete all of that work and not be able to pass the test.

TEST TICKET EXPLANATION

I include an explanation of my test ticket policy in my parent letter. The parent letter is sent home with students on the first day of school. Parents must sign the letter. I personally phone the students who do not return this letter with parent signature within the first two weeks of school.

Parent:

Students celebrate learning every time they pass a test. Students who do not complete assignments and make corrections will have very little to celebrate. My students have had nearly a one hundred percent success rate both on TAKS and in passing Algebra I because they work hard.

Students must be eligible to take tests in my class. Eligibility is earned by completing and correcting certain independent practice assignments. Students will be assigned noon detention each time they come to class without their assignments completed. Students will be allowed to take a test on test day only if they have every test ticket assignment complete. Students who do not have their test ticket assignments finished on the day of a test will spend the class period working on the missing assignments and will have two days to come in and take the test either before or after school. If they never complete the test ticket assignments, they will never take the test. I will be available to help them with the missing assignments while their classmates take their tests. These students are not eligible for retesting. After two days, they will receive a zero.