



Rockford High School

Grades 9-12



Testing Out: Why or Why not?

After reading the information below, click the following link for registration information - <https://thosford.wufoo.com/forms/rockford-high-school-testing-out-registration/>

In compliance with state law, Rockford Public Schools provides the opportunity for students to “Test Out” of a subject area by demonstrating mastery of that subject area’s content and skills, and thereby earn credit. Although a student earns credit, he/she does not receive a letter grade nor is the credit computed in the student’s grade point average. A “CR” is noted on the transcript to indicate credit earned.

TESTING OUT IS AN INDEPENDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH NO SUPPORT FROM THE SCHOOL OR A TEACHER. Students will take a comprehensive examination on the assigned date given when materials are picked up. There are no other dates for testing out.

Testing Out: Why?

- Allows student to advance or accelerate when they have already mastered content and skills.
- Allows student to **earn credit** for a course for which they already have sufficient knowledge.
- Allows student to create additional opportunities to enroll in elective courses that might not otherwise fit into their schedule.
- Provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of concepts obtained through prior experiences.

Testing Out: Why Not?

- The required courses in Rockford Public Schools reinforce content and develop skills necessary to be career and college ready. We want to make certain that all students have strong foundational skills.
- Students benefit from the opportunity to construct knowledge in the context of interacting with peers during classroom time.
- Not every skill can be assessed on the exams, and therefore a student may not have some essential skills emphasized by taking the course.
- Practices require practice.
- Passing an exam with a score of 78% will allow a student to earn credit and skip a class, but to what extent will the other 22% negatively influence their future learning? Many courses rely heavily on prior knowledge.
- Consider the challenge of learning an entire course in a short time period. Is the depth of learning from this approach equivalent and suited to long-term mastery? This question is particularly relevant if the content area is one for which the student intends to pursue advanced study.
- Courses for which you earn credit by testing out are not used in the calculation of grade point average for NCAA eligibility.

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