



Out of State High School Exit Exam Guidance

Not all of the states listed below offer high school exit exams that are equivalent to Alaska's High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE). The exams may vary in type of test, subjects tested, grade test first administered, and grade level of alignment. It is important to be cautious when determining if completion of another state's high school exit exam will waive a student from taking the HSGQE. The following guidance is provided for your assistance. Contact the Department of Education & Early Development (EED) directly if you have any questions about approval.

Guidance for Determining Approval:

1. Is the assessment type comprehensive?
2. Does the assessment cover mathematics (not algebra), reading, and writing?
3. Is the assessment level of alignment at least grade eight for mathematics, reading, and writing?
4. Was the applicant attending the high school the year of administration? And, if the assessment administers subjects in different years, was the applicant assessed in all subjects? (See Minnesota)
5. If a state is transitioning to a new assessment type, was the applicant administered a comprehensive assessment?

If the answer is "no" to **any** of these five questions, the applicant is not eligible for a waiver.¹

The table below is extracted from the Center on Education Policy's (CEP) *State High School Exit Exams: Trends in Test Programs, Alternate Pathways, and Pass Rates* full report released November 2009. The table changes yearly, therefore districts are responsible for monitoring all changes prior to submitting waiver applications to governing bodies for approval.

~~Be sure to read all footnotes included with the table. ~~

In addition to the full report, individual state profiles are available on CEP's Web site at:
<http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=493&parentID=481>

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¹ Whether New York qualifies for reciprocity with Alaska is pending EED investigation.

Table 1

Major Characteristics of State Exit Exams

State	Current Exam	Year Diplomas First Withheld Based on Current Exam	Subjects Tested	Type of Test	Grade Level of Alignment	Grade Test First Administered	Prior Exit Exam or Exit Exam Being Phased Out
Alabama	Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) 3 rd Edition ¹	2001	Reading, language, math, science, social studies	Comprehensive	11 th	10 th	Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) 1 st and 2 nd Editions
Alaska	Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)	2004	Reading, writing, math	Comprehensive	8 th -10 th	10 th	None
Arizona	Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)	2006	Reading, writing, math, science	Comprehensive	10 th	10 th	None
Arkansas	Arkansas Comprehensive Assessment Program	2010	English II, algebra I	End-of-course	Varies	Varies	None
California	California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)	2006	ELA, math	Comprehensive	ELA (through 10 th), math (6 th - 7 th and algebra I)	10 th	None
Florida	Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)	2003	Reading and math	Comprehensive	10 th	10 th	High School Competency Test (HSCT)
Georgia	Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT)	1994	ELA, writing, math, science, social studies	Comprehensive	9 th - 11 th	11 th	Basic Skills Test
Idaho	Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)	2006	Reading, language usage, math, and science	Comprehensive	10 th	10 th	None

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State	Current Exam	Year Diplomas First Withheld Based on Current Exam	Subjects Tested	Type of Test	Grade Level of Alignment	Grade Test First Administered	Prior Exit Exam or Exit Exam Being Phased Out
Indiana	Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE)	2000	ELA, mathematics	Comprehensive	9 th , including pre-algebra and algebra I	10 th	
	End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs) ¹	2012	Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology I, English III	End-of-course	Varies	Varies	Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE)
Louisiana	Graduation Exit Examination (GEE)	2003	ELA, math, science, social studies	Comprehensive	9 th -12 th	10 th	Graduation Exit Exam
Maryland	Maryland High School Assessment (HSA)	2009	English 2, algebra/data analysis, biology, government	End-of-course	10 th	Varies	Maryland Functional Tests
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)	2003	ELA, math, science (2010)	Comprehensive plus end-of-course exams in science (2010)	10 th /high school standards	10 th ; science will vary	None
Minnesota	Graduation Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD) ¹	2010	Reading, writing, math	Comprehensive	High School Standards	Varies	Basic Skills Test (BST)
Mississippi	Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program (SATP)	2006	English II (with writing component), algebra I, Biology I, U.S. history from 1877	End-of-course	Aligned to course content	Varies	Functional Literacy Examination (FLE)
Nevada	High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE)	2003	Reading, writing, math, science	Comprehensive	9 th -12 th	10 th , writing in 11 th	High School Proficiency Examination (earlier version based on 1994 curriculum)
New Jersey	High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)	2003	Language arts literacy, math; end-of-course exam in biology (2011)	Comprehensive plus one end-of-course in biology (2011)	11 th	11 th	High School Proficiency Test ₁₁

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State	Current Exam	Year Diplomas First Withheld Based on Current Exam	Subjects Tested	Type of Test	Grade Level of Alignment	Grade Test First Administered	Prior Exit Exam or Exit Exam Being Phased Out
New Mexico	New Mexico High School Competency Examination (NMHSCE) ¹	1990	Reading, language arts, written composition, math, science, social studies	Minimum competency	8 th	10 th	New Mexico High School Competency Examination (NMHSCE)
New York	Regents Examinations	2000	ELA, math, science, global history and geography, U.S. history and government	End-of-course	9 th -12 th	Varies	Regents Competency Tests
North Carolina	North Carolina Competency Tests and Test of Computer Skills ¹	1981 (math/reading) 2001 (computer skills) 2010 (end-of-course exams)	Reading comprehension, math, computer skills; starting 2010, end-of-course exams in algebra I, English I, U.S. history, civics and economics, biology	Comprehensive In 2010, five end-of-course exams	8 th ; end-of-course exams (course-specific)	8 th ; end-of-course exams will vary	North Carolina Competency Test and Tests of Computer Skills
Ohio	Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)	2007	Reading, writing, math, science, social studies	Comprehensive	10 th	10 th	9 th -Grade Proficiency Tests
Oklahoma	Oklahoma End-of-Instruction (EOI) Exams	2012	Algebra I, English II, and two of the five additional subjects (Algebra II, geometry, English III, Biology I, and U.S. history)	End-of-course	High school standards	Varies	None
South Carolina	High School Assessment Program (HSAP)	2006	ELA, math, science (2010)	Comprehensive plus end-of-course exams in science (2010)	Through 10 th	10 th ; end-of-course exam will vary	Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP)
Tennessee	Gateway Examinations	2005	English I, II, and III, Algebra I and II, geometry, biology I, chemistry, U.S. history, physics (2013)	End-of-course	10 th	Varies	Tennessee Competency Test

State	Current Exam	Year Diplomas First Withheld Based on Current Exam	Subjects Tested	Type of Test	Grade Level of Alignment	Grade Test First Administered	Prior Exit Exam or Exit Exam Being Phased Out
Texas	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) ¹	2005	ELA (reading/writing), math, science, social studies	Comprehensive	Aligned to course content	11 th	Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS)
Virginia	Standards of Learning (SOL)	2004	English (reading/writing), algebra I, algebra II, geometry, biology, earth science, chemistry, world history to 1500, world history from 1500 to present, Virginia and U.S. history, world geography	End-of-course	Aligned to course content	Varies	Literacy Passport Test
Washington	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) ¹	2008	Reading, writing, math (2013), science (2013)	Comprehensive plus end-of-course exams	10 th	10 th	None

Table reads: Alabama currently administers the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE), 3rd Edition, for which consequences began for the class of 2001. The exam assesses reading, language, math, science, and social studies, and is considered by the state to be a comprehensive, standards-based exam aligned to 11th grade standards. The current test replaced the Alabama High School Graduation Exam, 1st and 2nd Editions.

¹ Alabama, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas and Washington will transition to new exams. See state profiles, found in the accompanying CD or online, for detailed information.

Note: This year's report uses the term "comprehensive" to refer to exit exams aligned to state standards in several subject areas and generally targeted to the 9th- or 10th-grade level. Previous CEP reports referred to these as "standards-based" exams.

Note: ELA = English language arts.

Source: Center on Education Policy, *exit exam survey of state departments of education, August 2009*.