



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. 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)
4. If a state is transitioning to a new assessment type, was the applicant administered a comprehensive assessment?
5. Is the assessment level of alignment at least grade eight?

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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|---------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| 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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|----------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 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 |

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|------------|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 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.