

New Mexico
Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies

State exit exam policy	The Grade 11 Standards Based Assessment/High School Graduation Assessment (SBA/HSGA) was implemented as the state mandated high school exit exam in spring 2011. Students must pass all sections of the SBA/HSGA in order to receive a high school diploma, beginning with the class of 2013. The Grade 11 SBA was first used as New Mexico’s federally mandated accountability assessment. The same performance standards used for accountability reporting are applied to graduation. To pass, students must demonstrate Proficient or Advanced performance on the SBA/HSGA.
Type of test	The SBA/HSGA is a comprehensive assessment.
Purpose	To meet a state mandate
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	Requirements to pass the SBA/HSGA were temporarily suspended in school year 2011-2012 by Senate Bill 360. The requirement was suspended to support fiscal solvency of school districts and the Public Education Department.
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	New performance standards for the SBA were implemented in 2011, in response to changes in test design. Beginning in 2011, the SBA was comprised of more multiple choice items. The Grade 11 SBA/HSGA in Reading was also redesigned to align with updated high school content standards in English/Language Arts.
Year first administered	The Grade 11 SBA has been used for accountability reporting since 2004-2005. The test was first administered to meet state mandated graduation requirements in spring 2011. Scores from the spring 2011 test will be reported to schools for planning student Alternate Demonstrations of Competency (ADCs), though the class of 2012 will not be required to pass the test or the ADC. No SBA/HSGA retests will be available in 2011-2012. The SBA/HSGA will be administered to the class of 2013 in the spring of 2012.
Year diplomas first withheld	The class of 2013 will be the first class that must pass the SBA or complete an ADC.

Subjects tested on exam	Reading, writing, math, science and social studies
Subjects required for graduation	Reading, writing, math, science and social studies
Grade exam first administered	11th
Grade(s) exam aligned to	The Grade 11 SBA/HSGA is aligned with high school content standards (grades 9 – 12 span).
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Two—students who do not pass it can try again during the fall and spring of their senior year.
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Two retake opportunities each year (fall and winter) for up to five years after exiting high school
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Yes
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	Yes
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	Yes, it was decided that the same performance standards that used for accountability reporting will be applied to graduation. Consistency was desired to facilitate transition to college and career readiness expectations in Common Core State Standards.

<p>Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities</p>	<p>Students who do not pass the SBA/HSGA will be able to use a portfolio of standards based indicators as an Alternate Demonstration of Competency (ADC).</p>
<p>Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation</p>	<p>Students may take the SBA/HSGA or complete an ADC for graduation. If a student fails to pass the SBA/HSGA, they may retest or they may complete an ADC.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>Not applicable. No ADC will apply to graduation requirements in 2011-2012.</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners</p>	<p>No, but English language learners are eligible for the ADC options as general education students. A Spanish version of the SBA/HSGA is also available.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>Not applicable. No ADC will apply to graduation requirements in 2011-2012.</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities</p>	<p>There are three pathways to the diploma in New Mexico. The pathways are Standard, Career Readiness, and Ability, and each has its own requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Pathway: Students must meet the district’s graduation requirements that apply to all students • Career Readiness Pathway: Students must take the SBA/HSGA and meet a competency level determined by the student’s individualized education program (IEP) team • Ability Pathway: Students must take either the SBA/HSGA or the New Mexico alternate assessment and meet a competency level determined by the IEP team <p>Like all other New Mexico high school students, students with disabilities who complete 12th grade without having passed the SBA/HSGA may still receive a high school diploma by</p>

	<p>demonstrating competence in state content standards by submitting the Alternate Demonstration of Competence, a portfolio of artifacts/standards-based indicators. Students with disabilities receive accommodations for the SBA/HSGA according to their needs. Please see the link below:</p> <p>For students with a significant cognitive disability, the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA) serves as the assessment for adequate yearly progress (AYP) and the alternative high school exit exam.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>Not applicable. The SBA/HSGA graduation requirement is temporarily suspended in 2011-2012.</p>
<p>Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams</p>	<p>Initial pass rates for the SBA/HSGA are not yet available. New Mexico will be able to provide an estimate in fall 2011.</p>

State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	New Mexico has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	New Mexico is a member of PARCC only.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	Adoption of CCSS has not affected New Mexico's high school exit exam policy.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	New Mexico's comprehensive transition plan to the CCSS is in development. Information about the plan will be available in 2011-2012.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	New Mexico's comprehensive transition plan to the CCSS is in development. Information about the plan will be available in 2011-2012.
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	New Mexico's comprehensive transition plan to the CCSS is in development. Information about the plan will be available in 2011-2012.
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	Performance standards for the SBA/HSGA are more rigorous to facilitate transition to CCSS expectations.

<p>Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam</p>	<p>New Mexico’s comprehensive transition plan to the CCSS is in development. Information about the plan will be available in 2011-2012.</p>
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