

**Tennessee**  
**Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies**

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, the Gateway Exams in high school were replaced by end-of-course exams that test the mastery of expectations leading to college- and work-readiness. Students are no longer required to pass the end-of-course exams to earn high school diploma; however, scores on these end-of-course exams now account for a percentage of students' final course grades.
Type of test	End-of-course
Purpose	The purpose of the test is to use regular assessments to measure whether each student is on track to graduate and how teachers can help each student achieve that goal.
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	None
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	The Algebra II EOC exam became operational in the 2010-2011 school year, and the English III EOC exam will be operational in the 2011-2012 school year.
Year first administered	2009-2010
Year diplomas first withheld	Not applicable
Subjects tested on exam	Algebra I, Algebra II, English I, English II, English III, Biology I, and U.S. History. Geometry, Chemistry and Physics will be added in subsequent years.
Subjects required for graduation	Algebra I, Algebra II, English I, English II, English III, Biology I, and U.S. History. Geometry, Chemistry and Physics will be added in subsequent years.

Grade exam first administered	The grade in which the student is enrolled in the corresponding course.
Grade(s) exam aligned to	Varies—students will take the exam upon course completion.
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Not applicable. Students are no longer required to pass end-of-course exams to earn a high school diploma.
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Not applicable. Students are no longer required to pass end-of-course exams to earn a high school diploma.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Yes- Algebra I and English II
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	Not applicable. Students are no longer required to pass end-of-course exams to earn a high school diploma.
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	Not applicable.
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	No response.
Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation	No response.

Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	No response.
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners	No response.
Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	No response.
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities	<p>A Transition Certificate may be awarded to SWD who, at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school, have failed to earn a regular diploma (22 units of credit) but have satisfactorily completed an IEP, and have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct.</p> <p>SWD may continue to work towards the high school diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-two years old.</p> <p>An IEP certificate will be awarded to SWD who have (1) satisfactorily completed an IEP, (2) successfully completed a portfolio, and (3) have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct.</p>
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	No response.
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	No response.

Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	No response.
Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?	No response.
Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?	No response.
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	<a href="http://www.tn.gov/education/reportcard/">http://www.tn.gov/education/reportcard/</a>
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Tennessee has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Tennessee is a member of PARCC only.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	No response.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes-2014-2015

Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes-2014-2015
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	Yes.
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	More rigorous.
Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam	No response.