

Louisiana
Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies

<i>State exit exam policy</i>	Students must pass English Language Arts and Mathematics and either Science or Social Studies tests of the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) in order to graduate. Beginning with the first-time freshmen entering in the 2010–11 school year, the End-of-Course tests become part of the graduation requirements replacing the GEE.
Type of test	GEE- Comprehensive standards-based exam End-of-Course tests began with first-time freshmen in 2010–11.
Purpose	The purpose of the exam is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide schools with student academic diagnostic information • Determine prospective high school graduates' mastery of the state curriculum • Encourage districts and schools to identify and serve students at risk of academic failure • Provide data to state policymakers on student attainment of state education goals to inform education policy decisions • Increase alignment of local curriculum and programs of instruction with state education standards • Promote equity of opportunity across all student groups • Meet a state mandate
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	The state department of education cut the GEE February seniors only retest due to budget cuts in 2010–11 and 2011–12.
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	Beginning with first-time freshmen in 2010–11, the GEE began transitioning to End-of-Course tests required for graduation. Students who entered under the GEE will graduate with the GEE and students who enter under the EOC will graduate with EOC. The EOC tests are given in Algebra I, English II, Geometry, Biology, English III, and U.S. History. All incoming freshmen

	<p>must pass three EOC tests in the following categories: English II or English III, Algebra I or Geometry, and Biology or U.S. History. Beginning in 2010–11, EOC test scores become part of the course grade.</p>
Year first administered	<p>GEE- 2000–01 (English Language Arts and Mathematics); 2001–02 (Science and Social Studies)</p> <p>End-of-Course tests were first administered to students in May 2007. The EOC tests were phased in, one each school year, to permit the schools and school districts to prepare for online testing. Beginning in the 2010–11 school year, EOC tests are required for graduation for first-time freshmen. In 2010–11, the EOC tests become part of the course grade for Algebra I, Geometry, and English II. In 2011–12, Biology becomes part of the course grade, as does English III in 2012–13 and U.S. History in 2013–14.</p>
Year diplomas first withheld	<p>GEE- 2003</p> <p>End-of-Course tests- 2014</p>
Subjects tested on exam	<p>GEE- English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies</p> <p>End-of-Course tests- Algebra I, English II, Geometry, Biology, English III, and U.S. History</p>
Subjects required for graduation	<p>GEE- English Language Arts and Mathematics and either Science or Social studies</p> <p>End-of-Course tests- All incoming freshmen beginning in 2010–11 must pass three EOC tests in the following categories: English II or English III, Algebra I or Geometry, and Biology or U.S. History.</p>
Grade exam first administered	<p>GEE- 10th</p> <p>New End-of-Course tests for selected high school courses are given in the school year the courses are completed.</p>

Grade(s) exam aligned to	<p>GEE- Standards for grades 9th –12th</p> <p>End-of-Course tests are aligned to content grade-level expectations (GLEs) for their respective courses.</p>
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	GEE- Six retakes for English Language Arts and Mathematics, three for Science and Social Studies
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	After grade 12, retakes are permitted for students who have met other graduation requirements at all regularly scheduled administrations with no age limit and no limit on the number of times the student may take the exam after senior year.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Since 2002–03, results from the first time a student takes the exit exam have counted for NCLB accountability.
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	<p>No. For NCLB proficiency students must achieve at the basic level on the GEE, while for graduation purposes students must achieve at the <i>Approaching Basic</i> level or above on the GEE.</p> <p>There are four achievement levels students can score on the end-of-course tests: <i>Excellent</i>, <i>Good</i>, <i>Fair</i>, and <i>Needs Improvement</i>.</p> <p>Students scoring at the achievement level of <i>Excellent</i> have demonstrated mastery of course content beyond <i>Good</i>, while a score of <i>Good</i> indicates a student has demonstrated mastery of course content and is well prepared for the next level of coursework in the subject area. At the level of <i>Fair</i>, a student has demonstrated only the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of coursework in the subject area. A rating of <i>Needs Improvement</i> indicates a student has not demonstrated the fundamental knowledge and skills for the next level of coursework in the subject area.</p> <p>Students are required to score <i>Fair</i> or above on EOC English II or English III, Algebra I, or</p>

	Geometry, and Biology or U.S. History to be eligible for a standard high school diploma.
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	No
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	Yes. The career diploma is an alternate path to graduation. There are currently two diploma tracks in the state of Louisiana—The college and career diploma and the career diploma. Implemented in the 2009–10 school year, except in school districts that were granted waivers, the career diploma allows for career-focused subjects to take the place of some advanced core classes. Beginning in the 2010–11 school year, all local education agencies were required to offer the career diploma as an option for students.
Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation	To receive a career diploma, students must earn 23 Carnegie credits, which include a career area of concentration. Students must also pass the new End-of-Course tests in order to be eligible to receive a career diploma.
Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	10 of 34,788 or 0.03%
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners	No
Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	Not applicable.
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities	Students with significant cognitive disabilities are eligible for a certificate of achievement instead of a regular diploma.

	<p>Beginning in the 2009–10 school year, students with disabilities identified under IDEA may substitute an AA-MAS (LAA 2) for the GEE with a passing score of approaching basic or above.</p> <p>In order to graduate with a regular high school diploma, students in Louisiana must successfully complete the required number of Carnegie units and pass three of the four portions of the Graduation Exit Examination or LEAP Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2). Students must pass the English Language Arts and Mathematics and either Science or Social Studies portions of the test. Some students with disabilities with IEPs receive a waiver of one portion of the exit exam when the student’s disability significantly interferes with the ability to pass the test, provided all other graduation criteria are met.</p> <p>Students with disabilities who have passed two of the three required end-of-course (EOC) assessments and have exhausted all opportunities prior to the end of their senior year may request to have the required third EOC test waived by the state superintendent of education if the Louisiana Department of Education determines the student's disability significantly impacts his or her ability to pass the EOC exam.</p>
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	The data for the 2010–11 school year are not available at this time. In 2010, 719 students exited high school with a certificate of achievement.
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	No
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	No
Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on	No

college placement exams?	
Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?	No
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	https://www.louisianaschools.net/topics/gee_results.html and https://www.louisianaschools.net/topics/eoc_results.html
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Our state has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Our state is a member of PARCC only.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	The CCSS have not impacted the GEE, which is in its final cohort with first-time freshmen of 2009–10. Since the GEE is being phased out, there are no plans to change the assessment to align with CCSS.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes, the EOC will be replaced with the PARCC EOC in 2014–15.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	No
Plans to maintain current exit exams in	No

subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	Not known at this time.
Preparation for students and teachers to transition to the new exam	More will be known about these plans next year.