

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

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	All students must pass all parts of Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) in order to receive a diploma. However, there are alternate paths to graduation for students who repeatedly fail the exit exam.
Type of test	Comprehensive standards-based exam
Purpose	The purpose of the test is to determine prospective high school graduates’ mastery of the state standards in the content areas of writing, reading, and mathematics, and to meet a state mandate.
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 Spring 2011 AIMS HS Writing test is on a new scale and has new cut scores. The format of the writing test was revised to include both multiple response items and an extended writing response. This format change required a new standard setting. The writing test is still aligned to the 2004 Arizona Writing Standard.
Year first administered	1999
Year diplomas first withheld	2006 (delayed from 2001)
Subjects tested on exam	Reading, writing, and mathematics
Subjects required for graduation	Reading, writing, and mathematics

Grade exam first administered	10 <sup>th</sup> grade
Grade(s) exam aligned to	10 <sup>th</sup> grade
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Four retakes (one each semester), beginning in fall of 11th grade
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Students who have met all other graduation requirements are allowed to retake the exam an unlimited number of times after 12th grade.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	The first administration in grade 10 is used for NCLB purposes.
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	No.
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	<p>Students who complete high school and have yet to pass one or more sections of the assessment might meet the AIMS graduation requirement via AIMS Augmentation, College Entrance Exam Reciprocity, or reciprocity with exams from other states. Students must meet the eligibility requirements for the alternate paths.</p> <p>AIMS Augmentation allows students to augment their AIMS scores with points derived from required course grades. If the augmented score is at or greater than the "Meets the Standard"</p>

	<p>threshold, the augmented score counts as passing for graduation purposes.</p> <p>College Entrance Exam Reciprocity allows students to substitute SAT or ACT subtest scores that meet the State Board of Education approved minimum scores for non-passing AIMS scores.</p> <p>Reciprocity with exams from other states allows student who passed a qualifying statewide high school exam in another state to use those scores in lieu of passing AIMS scores for graduation purposes.</p>
<p>Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation</p>	<p>For AIMS Augmentation, students must have tested on AIMS HS at every opportunity for which they were eligible and participated in a remediation program.</p> <p>For College Entrance Exam Reciprocity, students must have tested on AIMS HS at every opportunity for which they were eligible.</p> <p>For reciprocity with exams from other states, students must transfer into Arizona with qualifying scores from their previous state.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>The state does not collect this information.</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners</p>	<p>Same alternate paths described above.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>The state does not collect this information.</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities</p>	<p>Students with disabilities may be exempted from having to pass AIMS to graduate from high school. Students with disabilities who are not exempt from passing the exam may use the same alternate paths described above.</p>

Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	The state does not collect this information.
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	No, but in April 2004, the Arizona Board of Regents voted to link students' AIMS scores, in addition to other achievement measures, to full scholarships to state universities. Students who achieve at the highest performance level (exceeds the standard) on all three content areas of AIMS may receive a tuition waiver at three state universities if they meet other waiver criteria.
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	The exit exam may be taken into consideration by postsecondary institutions but is not a requirement for admission purposes.
Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?	The exit exam may be taken into consideration by postsecondary institutions but is not a requirement for admission purposes.
Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?	The exit exam may be taken into consideration by postsecondary institutions but is not a requirement for admission purposes.
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	<a href="http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/">http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/</a>
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Arizona has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Arizona is a member of PARCC only.

Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	<p>Arizona is a member of PARCC. As these assessments are developed there will be several matters to address that will impact Arizona's high school exit exam policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which end of course exams should be included in the high stakes requirement (presently, AZ does not implement end of course exams)</li> <li>• Whether there should be separate cut scores on the PARCC exams for high stakes purposes</li> <li>• How to appropriately transition to the PARCC assessments for continuing high school students that did not pass the existing high stakes tests (AIMS)</li> </ul>
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes. The new assessments should be fully implemented by the 2014-2015 school year.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes. The new assessments should be fully implemented by the 2014-2015 school year.
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	Arizona currently limits its exit exam requirements to Math and English language arts. There are no plans to add additional subject areas.
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	We are a member of the PARCC consortium and we are currently developing a plan to transition students and teachers to our new exam.

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