

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

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	All students must pass the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) in order to receive a diploma.
Type of test	Comprehensive standards-based exam
Purpose	The purpose of the HSGQE is to ensure that a high school diploma represents attainment of essential skills.
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	None
Year first administered	2000
Year diplomas first withheld	2004 for most students (delayed from 2001)
Subjects tested on exam	Reading, writing, mathematics
Subjects required for graduation	Reading, writing, mathematics
Grade exam first administered	10 <sup>th</sup>
Grade(s) exam aligned to	8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Two per year
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Two per year indefinitely

Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	As of 2005-06, Alaska no longer uses the HSGQE to meet NCLB high school testing requirements, but instead uses the Grade 10 Standards-Based Assessment.
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	Not applicable
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	None
Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation	Not applicable
Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	Not applicable
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners	No. However, accommodations are available for English language learners. The participation guidelines as well as the list of accommodations available to ELL students is available online at <a href="http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/pdf_files/ParticipationGuidelinesWeb_2011.pdf">http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/pdf_files/ParticipationGuidelinesWeb_2011.pdf</a>
Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	Not applicable
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities	Students with disabilities who do not pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination by their sophomore year may be allowed to take an alternative assessment program, which consists of the modified or nonstandardized version of the exam. Students with disabilities may use the HSGQE with modifications with state approval. The nonstandardized HSGQE consists of an extensive collection of work that reflects competency in each of the state standards tested in the HSGQE.

	<p>The modified assessment is scored by the vendor. The state convenes a committee of three from the field for each content area to review the nonstandardized assessment. Two out of three approvals determine whether a student who takes the nonstandardized HSGQE meets the state standards.</p> <p>If a student has been ruled not to meet the standards, the modified assessment can be rescored. The nonstandardized assessment allows for the student to resubmit additional documentation.</p> <p>Accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The participation guidelines as well as the list of accommodations available to students is available online at <a href="http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/pdf_files/ParticipationGuidelinesWeb_2011.pdf">http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/pdf_files/ParticipationGuidelinesWeb_2011.pdf</a></p>
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	About 850 students with disabilities used the alternative path. This represents about 4.7% of our total disabled population.
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 college placement exams?	No
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	Initial - <a href="http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/results/results2011.html">http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/results/results2011.html</a> Cumulative - <a href="http://omb.alaska.gov/html/performance/details.html?p=27">http://omb.alaska.gov/html/performance/details.html?p=27</a>

State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Alaska has decided not to adopt the CCSS in either subject.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Alaska is a member of neither state consortium.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	Not applicable
Plans to replace or realign the current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Not applicable
Plans to replace or realign the current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Not applicable
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	Not applicable
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	Not applicable
Preparation for students and teachers to transition to the new exam	Not applicable