

Alabama
Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies

<i>State exit exam policy</i>	<p>All students must pass all parts of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE), 3rd edition in order to graduate. The AHSGE will sunset with the freshman class of 2011-12.</p> <p>Beginning in 2014-15, all students enrolled in courses assessed will be required to take end-of-course exams that will count for 20% of the final course grade.</p>
Type of test	<p>AHSGE- Comprehensive standards-based exam</p> <p>End-of-course exams beginning in 2014-15</p>
Purpose	<p>The purpose of the exam is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide schools with student academic diagnostic information • Determine prospective high school graduates' mastery of the state curriculum • Increase alignment of local curriculum and programs of instruction with state education standards • Meet a state mandate • Meet federal requirements for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for reading, math, and science
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	<p>Originally the state planned to transition from the Alabama High School Graduation Exam to end-of-course assessments with the freshman class of 2010-11; however, due to proration, the freshman class of 2011-12 will be the last class that will have to pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam in order to graduate.</p>
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	<p>Yes. The state adopted new mathematics standards for implementation in 2012-13 and new English language arts standards for implementation in 2013-14; however, these standards will impact the end-of-course assessments and not the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.</p>
Year first administered	<p>The 1st edition of the AHSGE was first administered in 1984. A second version of the state graduation exam, the High School Basic Skills Exit Exam, was first administered in 1995. The 3rd edition was first administered in 1999. The biology subject test was first administered in 2007 to replace the science test.</p>

	End-of-course exams will be first administered in the 2014-15 school year.
Year diplomas first withheld	2001 for the 3 rd edition (1985 for the 1 st edition) End-of-course exams will count 20% of final course grade.
Subjects tested on exam	AHSGE- Reading, mathematics, biology, social studies, language Tested subjects have not yet been determined for end-of-course exams
Subjects required for graduation	To earn a standard or advanced diploma, a student must pass all five sections of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. In spring 2009, a diploma with Credit-Based Endorsement was adopted. For this diploma endorsement, the student must pass all course work and pass three of the five subject tests of the AHSGE (math, reading, and one additional subject test).
Grade exam first administered	10 th (considered a pre-graduation administration, but if students pass one or more subjects they receive credit toward graduation) Any student who passes Algebra 1 prior to entering 10 th grade may have one early opportunity to sit for the math subject test at the first administration after successfully completing the course; any student who passes biology prior to entering 10 th grade may have one early opportunity to sit for the biology subject test at the first administration after successfully completing the course. New end-of-course exams for selected high school courses will be given in the grade year the courses are completed.
Grade(s) exam aligned to	11 th
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Four, including the option of retaking the exam in the summer between 11 th and 12 th grade
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Unlimited retakes after grade 12

Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Since 2003-04, the state has been using the AHSGE to meet the NCLB math and reading test requirements. The spring administration in 11 th grade counts for NCLB. The state used the new science (biology) section of the AHSGE for NCLB purposes in 2007-08.
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, not in the past year
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	No
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 for English language learners are available. More information about these accommodations can be found online at ftp://ftp.alsde.edu/documents/54/PoliciesProcedures.pdf
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	Yes. Students with disabilities may receive an Alabama Occupational Diploma, which does not require passing the AHSGE, or the school system may offer students with disabilities a waiver for one subject-area test in the student's major disability so the student can receive a regular

	<p>diploma.</p> <p>Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided. More information about these accommodations can be found online at ftp://ftp.alsde.edu/documents/54/PoliciesProcedures.pdf</p>
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	Not available at this time
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	http://www.alsde.edu/Accountability/Accountability.asp
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Alabama has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Alabama is a member of both PARCC and SMARTER Balanced.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school	The exit exam is being phased out; however, end-of-course assessments will be based on the

exit exam policies	new standards.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	The exit exam is being phased out; however, end-of-course assessments will be based on the new standards.
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	The exit exam is being phased out; however, end-of-course assessments will be based on the new standards.
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	No
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	See http://www.alsde.edu/home/General/alccs.aspx