

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

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	In the 2009-10 school year, Delaware required students to participate in the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) to receive a high school diploma, although students did not have to pass these exams to receive a diploma. The DSTP was suspended after 2010 due to the transition to the new Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS).
Type of test	Delaware is moving toward the end-of-course Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) and is in transition from comprehensive 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> grade assessments.
Purpose	The purpose is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a measure of progress toward the Delaware Content Standards</li> <li>• Ensure students apply their academic skills to realistic, everyday problems</li> <li>• Promote better instruction and curriculum by providing timely reports of students' strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>• Serve as a primary indicator in the statewide accountability system</li> </ul>
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	State law bases receipt of diploma on proficiency on state assessments. This was never enforced because of financial issues and transition to a new assessment system.
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	American Institutes for Research is the test vendor.
Year first administered	DSTP: first administered in 1998; continued through 2010. DCAS: field tested spring 2010; first operational administration 2011.
Year diplomas first withheld	Not applicable
Subjects tested on exam	DCAS: Math, reading, and science

Subjects required for graduation	Grade 10 mathematics will become Algebra II end-of-course (EOC) examination or Integrated Mathematics III EOC exam; English II; biology; U.S. history
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	Not yet determined
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Not yet determined
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Not at this time; transitioning to new assessment
Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	Not yet determined
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	Not yet determined
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	Not yet determined

Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation	Not yet determined
Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	Not applicable
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners	Not yet determined
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	Not yet determined
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	Not applicable
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	Postsecondary decision
Is the exit exam used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	Postsecondary decision

Are students who meet a certain standard on the state exit exam granted exemptions on college placement exams?	Not applicable
Can students receive any form of postsecondary education course credit for their performance on the exit exam?	Not applicable
Access to initial and cumulative pass rates on high school exit exams	Not applicable
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Delaware has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Delaware is a member of both PARCC and SMARTER Balanced.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	Not yet determined
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes
Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes

<p>Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented</p>	<p>To be determined</p>
<p>Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?</p>	<p>About the same</p>
<p>Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam</p>	<p>Model lessons; literacy and math progressions; professional development on CCSS; train the trainer (Pearson).</p>