



## Proficiency across the United States



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## Alabama

Increases the minimum number of teaching days in the school year from 175 to 180 (in compliance with 2003 S.B. 4). Permits secondary school students (in both summer school and regular school year) to demonstrate mastery of Alabama course of study content standards without specified instructional time. Authorizes local boards to create honors curricula that include rigor above that of the Advanced Academic Endorsement. Provides that effective with the ninth grade class of 2009-2010 (Class of 2013), the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement becomes the first-choice diploma option for high school students. Permits local boards of education to voluntarily implement this endorsement as the first-choice diploma option for the 2008-2009 school year. Provides that effective with 9th grade students during the 2008-2009 school years, students will be required to complete one distance-learning course prior to graduation. Allows exceptions through Individualized Education Plans.



Authorizes local boards to establish Credit Recovery programs allowing certain students learning opportunities to master concepts and skills in one or more failed courses. Requires course content for credit recovery courses to be composed of standards in which students proved deficient rather than all standards of the original course. Provides schools may offer these courses using computer software, online instruction, or teacher-directed instruction. Requires the curriculum to align with state board courses of study content standards in which students are deficient.

Eliminates provision that a secondary school student may earn no more than ten credits during a school year.

Title: 290-3-1-.02

Source: [www.lexis.com](http://www.lexis.com)

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, AHSGE  
[http://www.alsde.edu/general/great\\_expectations.pdf](http://www.alsde.edu/general/great_expectations.pdf)

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## Alaska

Curriculum Development on Standards-Based Curriculum

- 1) This chapter sets out statewide goals for public education, and adopts, by reference, content standards for several subject areas, and performance standards for reading, writing, and mathematics.
- 2) The purposes of the goals are to
  - a) encourage the school districts to envision and develop local educational plans that are unique to each district's culture, geography, and climate, and that will graduate world-class students;
  - b) empower the public with the knowledge that the skills and subjects included in this chapter are of great importance to education so that the public can participate in local educational planning with more authority and effect; and
  - c) set standards against which the public, school districts, teachers, and students can measure the quality of education that students receive.
- 3) The content standards and goals referred to in this chapter identify student abilities that evidence mastery of a subject area. The content standards are not graduation requirements or components of a curriculum, but they establish what constitutes excellent educational results. The content standards and goals are intentionally broad to allow a school district to tailor its curriculum to the conditions, goals, and expectations of its community. A school district board, working with the public, teachers, and students shall choose and implement effective



teaching strategies so that its students will achieve high performance in a subject area. These strategies should be reflected in:

- a) the development, selection, and implementation of the school district board policies;
- b) the curriculum and assessment required by 4 AAC 05.080; and
- c) teaching methodology, textbooks and instructional materials, and management practices.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/frameworks2/curricdevs/home.shtml>

[http://www.chugachschoools.com/video\\_clips/index.html](http://www.chugachschoools.com/video_clips/index.html)

[http://www.chugachschoools.com/chugach\\_resources/index.html](http://www.chugachschoools.com/chugach_resources/index.html)

<http://www.edutopia.org/chugach-school-district-reform>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, HSGQE

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/sba.html>

[http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess\\_eval/HSGQE.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/HSGQE.asp)

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## Arizona

Competency requirements.

- 1) The awarding of a credit toward the completion of high school graduation requirements shall be based on the successful completion of State Board-adopted academic standards for subject areas listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f), the successful completion of the competency requirements for the elective subjects specified in subsection (1)(g). Competency requirements for elective subjects as specified in subsection (1)(g) shall be the academic standards adopted by the State Board. If there are no adopted academic standards for an elective subject, the local governing board shall be responsible for developing and adopting competency requirements for the successful completion of the elective subject.
- 2) The determination and verification of student accomplishment and performance shall be the responsibility of the subject area teacher.
- 3) Upon request of the student, the local governing board shall provide the opportunity for the student to demonstrate competency in the subject areas listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(g) above in lieu of classroom time.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=784>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, AIMS

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/contentstandards.asp>

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/sampletests/>

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## Arkansas

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, ACTAAP

[http://arkansased.org/smart\\_arkansas/smart\\_step/pdf/step\\_action1.pdf](http://arkansased.org/smart_arkansas/smart_step/pdf/step_action1.pdf)

<http://arkansased.org/testing/actaap.html>



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## California

The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=785>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, CHSEE

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>



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## Colorado

Colorado's philosophy is based on Standards Based Teaching/Learning Cycle in which proficiency is embedded in the state's policy on a standards based curriculum. (See information below)

The Standards Based Teaching/Learning Cycle

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/download/PDF/StandardsBasedTeachingLearningCyclepdf.pdf>

Adams School District #50

<http://www.sbsadams50.org/content/>

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11280071](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_11280071) (Media)

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,490805,00.html> (Media)

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

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## Connecticut

Yes. Local or regional boards of education may grant a student credit for completion of a world language course offered privately by a nonprofit provider if a student passes an exam determined by the commissioner of education. Up to four credits may be earned by this means.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

<http://www.easthartford.org/page.cfm?p=58>



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## Delaware

Yes. "Credit" is defined as either at least 135 hours of classroom instruction "or a demonstration of competency." Policy defines activities for which students may be awarded credit.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=788>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Florida

Yes. Through Class of 2010, "credit for high school graduation may be earned for volunteer activities and nonacademic activities which have been approved for such credit by the state board of education."

In addition, "credit by examination or demonstration of competency" is listed as a public school choice option available to students, and "credit by examination" is listed as one of a number of "articulated acceleration mechanisms" intended to "to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements associated with the conference of a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, or increase the depth of study available for a particular subject."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=790>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, FCAT

<http://fcats.fldoe.org/>



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## Georgia

Yes. A student who is not a native speaker of English may fulfill two units of foreign language credit "by exercising the credit in lieu of enrollment option if they are proficient in their native language. A formal examination is not necessary if other evidence of proficiency is available. One elective required of all students may be selected from courses in foreign language." This is in force now as well as with the requirements effective with the Class of 2012.

In addition, a local board may apply to the state superintendent for a waiver to award alternative high school student's credit "based on demonstrated competency on course examination(s)."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=795>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, GHSEE

[http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci\\_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI\\_TESTING\\_GHSGT](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_GHSGT)

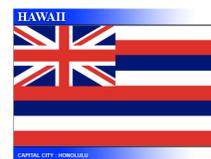


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## Hawaii

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Idaho

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, ISAT

<http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/saa/index.asp>



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## Illinois

Yes. District may establish program allowing high school students to earn credit towards graduation by performing community service. "The amount of credit given for program participation shall not exceed that given for completion of one semester of language arts, math, science or social studies." Any student who attains a minimum score on the Annual Consumer Education Proficiency Test is not required to take the consumer education course (9 weeks for 50 minutes a day). A student who can demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language, including American Sign Language, may receive 1 year of high school foreign language credit.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=797>



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Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

## Indiana

Yes. A student demonstrating proficiency in a course or subject area required for graduation or the academic honors diploma must receive credits for such regardless of whether the student has completed course work in the subject area. Proficiency may be demonstrated through one or more of the following methods:

- 1) Receiving a score that demonstrates proficiency on a standardized assessment accepted by accredited postsecondary institutions.
- 2) Receiving a high proficiency level score on an end of course assessment for a course without taking the course.
- 3) Completing a similar course at an eligible institution under the postsecondary enrollment program.
- 4) Scoring 3, 4 or 5 on an Advanced Placement exam.
- 5) Other methods approved by the state board.

In addition, "school corporations may, but are not required to, use scores from tests in determining a student's eligibility for a high school diploma." Subject to district application to the department, students identified as "high ability" may earn credit through performance assessments without completing the mandated classroom time for high school graduation.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=801>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, GQE

<http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/gqe/>



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## Iowa

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Kansas

Yes. "Individual students may be awarded credit based on demonstrated knowledge of the content of a course or subject, regardless of the amount of time spent by the student in the course or subject."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=802>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Kentucky

Yes. A local board may award credit "for satisfactory demonstration of learning based on content standards ... and a rigorous performance standards policy established by the board of education. A school shall establish performance descriptors and evaluation procedures to determine if the content and performance standards have been met. Every district must establish a policy for awarding performance-based credit that must include:

- 1) "The procedures for developing performance-based credit systems and for amending the system;
- 2) The conditions under which each high school may grant performance-based credits and the related performance descriptors and assessments;
- 3) Objective grading and reporting procedures; . . .
- 4) The extent to which state-provided assessments will be used in the local performance-based credit system;
- 5) The ability for students to demonstrate proficiency and earn credit for learning acquired outside of school or in prior learning; and
- 6) Criteria to ensure that internships, cooperative learning experiences, and other learning experiences in the school and community are designed to further student progress towards the Individual Learning Plan, supervised by qualified instructors and aligned with state and local content and performance standards."

Performance based credit may be awarded for:

- 1) Demonstration of learning in any high school course'
- 2) "Standards-based course work that constitutes satisfactory demonstration of learning in a course for which the student failed to earn credit when the course was taken previously;
- 3) Standards-based portfolios, senior year or capstone projects;
- 4) Standards-based online or other technology mediated courses;
- 5) Standards-based dual credit or other equivalency courses; and
- 6) Standards-based internship, cooperative learning experience, or other supervised experience in the school and the community."

In addition, a student transferring from a non-accredited secondary school must be awarded credit by either passing "an examination of similar nature and content to the examination used for other students receiving credit for a particular course within the school district and graded on a comparable basis" or performing successfully "in a higher level of the course when the courses are sequential in nature such as English, mathematics, history, and science. Successful performance shall consist of achieving at least a C grade in the course by the 12th week of school."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=803>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

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## Louisiana

Yes. "High school credit shall be granted to a student following the student's passing of a proficiency examination for the eligible course." The student must be offered the proficiency exam on a pass/fail basis "when a school official believes that a student has mastered eligible subject matter and has reached the same or a higher degree of proficiency as that of a student who completed an equivalent course at the regular high school or college level." A November 2007 amendment allows students to take proficiency examinations in courses they have failed.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=806>



Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, GEE

<http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/saa/2273.html>

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## Maine

Yes. Effective with the Class of 2007, "public high school graduation must be determined by student achievement of the standards of the system of learning results in English language arts, health and physical education, mathematics, science and technology and social studies, based on the school administrative unit's local assessment system...." "Local assessments may include portfolios, performances and demonstrations in addition to other measures of achievement. Commercially produced assessment tools may be part of a local assessment system but may not carry a majority of the weight in determining student performance."

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

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## Maryland

Yes. Experience outside the school "may be counted for credit when identified as an integrated part of a planned study program. For work or experience outside the school which is approved and supervised by the local school system, not more than nine elective credits toward meeting graduation requirements may be granted to a student." Credit may also be "earned for independent study or internships in which a student successfully demonstrates pre-established curricular objectives" or "by passing an examination that assesses student demonstration of local school system curricular objectives. Credit toward high school graduation may be earned by middle school students if the following criteria are met: (a) The student has taken a high school level course meeting the local school system curricular objectives; and (b) The student passes an examination that assesses student demonstration of course objectives and the examination is equivalent in content coverage and rigor to examinations given to high school students for the course content area." However, "The determination to allow high school credit by examination for middle school students shall be made by the local school system." A student who earns credit for algebra/data analysis, biology, English I, or government outside the classroom must "take the requisite Maryland High School Assessment during its next regular administration." Elsewhere, statute allows an individual to earn a high school diploma by exam if the individual has lived in the state for at least 3 months [this may be waived by the state board]; is at least 16 years old; and "has withdrawn from a regular full-time public or private school program for at least 3 months, except that the State Board may waive the 3-month withdrawal requirement" if the state board deems this justified. At least twice a year the state board must offer these exams, which must be "offered in appropriate high school subject areas" and "be of a comprehensive nature as determined by the state board."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=810>



Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, HSA

<http://hsaexam.org/>

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## Massachusetts

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, MCAS

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>



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## Michigan

Yes. Local board must award credit in any course to a high school student who is not enrolled in a course but "who has exhibited a reasonable level of mastery of the subject matter of the course by attaining a grade of not less than C+ in a final exam in the course or, if there is no final exam, by exhibiting that mastery through the basic assessment used in the course which may consist of a portfolio, performance, paper, project, or presentation." "Credit earned [in this manner] may or may not be counted toward graduation, as the board of the school district may determine, but the board's determination shall apply equally to all such credit for all pupils...." Credit earned in this manner will be "pass" only and not included in computation of student's grade point average. In addition, local board must grant high school credit to a high school student who demonstrates who has completed a course in or demonstrates proficiency in American Sign Language, or who demonstrates "proficiency in a foreign language outside of a public or private high school curriculum" either by competency test "or other criteria established by the board.



Eff. Class of 2011: A student will be considered to have completed a unit if the student successfully completes the department's subject area content expectations or guidelines. This determination must be based in part on student's performance on assessments chosen by the department or the district. A student must be awarded credit upon attainment of a qualifying score (as determined by the department or district) on an assessment selected for the purpose of determining student proficiency in that subject area.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=814>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/faq3\\_178595\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/faq3_178595_7.pdf)

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## Minnesota

Yes, A student may submit an application for a waiver from a graduation requirement. The district, charter school, or area learning center "must declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard required for graduation" if it is determined that the student is participating in a course of study, including in "a learning opportunity outside the curriculum ... or an approved preparatory program for employment or postsecondary education that is equally or more rigorous than the corresponding state or local academic standard" the student would otherwise have to complete. The district "also may formally determine other circumstances in which to declare that a student meets or exceeds a specific academic standard that the site requires for graduation..." In statute pertaining to graduation requirements eff. Class of 2008, course credit is defined as either completing a year of study "or a student mastering the applicable subject matter, as determined by the local school district."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=815>



Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, BST

[http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Accountability\\_Programs/Assessment\\_and\\_Testing/Assessments/BST/index.html](http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/BST/index.html)

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## Mississippi

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2004, Revised September 2005

Yes. Evidence of proficiency in keyboarding and a computer application is accepted in lieu of the .5 unit each of keyboarding and "Computer Applications" if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational)."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=816>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, SATP

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/satp.html>



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## Missouri

Yes. A district, with prior approval of the department of elementary and secondary education, may grant credit to a student who demonstrates mastery of the required competencies of a course.

In addition, "The State Board of Education has authorized the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to waive the standard graduation requirements for school districts that wish to develop and implement performance-based graduation standards as an alternative to the credit-based requirements. Any school district interested in this alternative should contact the Supervision Section for information and guidance in developing such a system."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=817>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

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## Montana

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Nebraska

Yes. "Schools may use performance based curriculum or courses as an option ... if they have a written description of the curricula or course which includes the goals, representative instructional experiences, expected student performance for accomplishment of the goals, and the rationale for allocating instructional units for the course. The written description is approved by the local board of education and is on file in the school. Performance based curriculum provides learning opportunities for students equivalent to or greater than those [completed through minimum instructional units], but may take less than the time required ... for determining instructional units." In addition, "A district shall make provisions for students that may enter at any time during the school year. A district that enrolls a student during the school year shall give the student the opportunity to earn full credit for the courses in which the student is enrolled if the student is able to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter and/or completion of course requirements, other than attendance, at a level required for other students to receive credit who have been enrolled throughout the period for which the credit is to be granted. The district may use a review of transcripts from prior schools attended, standardized tests, assessments, and/or teacher evaluations of student



competency in the subject matter to make such a determination. A school district may use the same evaluation alternatives to award or recognize credit for past course work completed elsewhere and/or through demonstrated mastery of subject matter."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=817>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

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## Nevada

Yes. Local board may grant credit towards high school graduation "for a pupil's experiences outside the high school campus if those experiences are equivalent in kind and amount to the educational experiences being offered in the high school." Student may receive credit for a high school course by demonstrating "competence to meet the objectives of the course through ... performance on examinations."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=821>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, HSPE

[http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment\\_HSPE.htm](http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment_HSPE.htm)

[http://hsee.umn.edu/hsee\\_documentation/nv97b\\_friess\\_steve.pdf](http://hsee.umn.edu/hsee_documentation/nv97b_friess_steve.pdf)



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## New Hampshire

Yes. Regulation allows local boards to offer "extended learning opportunities," which permits students to earn credit through participation in such activities as "independent study, private instruction, team sports, performing groups, internships, community service and work study[.]" Credits must be awarded "based on a student's demonstration of competencies, as approved by certified educators" and must be made available to all students.

In addition, by the 2008-2009 school year, local boards must allow high school credit to be earned by demonstrating mastery of required competencies for the course, as approved by certified school personnel, and must have in place competency assessments for all courses offered through the high school. Until the 2008-2009 school year, the local board must require that high school credit may be earned either through seat time or by demonstration of competency through a competency assessment, if one is in place.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=823>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

[http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/FTC/FTC\\_Index.htm](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/FTC/FTC_Index.htm)

<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/guidance.htm#CBA>



## New Jersey

Yes. Rather than requiring students to complete the specified 110 credits in certain courses, districts may allow or require students to complete graduation requirements by achieving the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Curricular activities and programs may involve in-depth experiences linked to the Core Curriculum Content Standards, such as interdisciplinary or theme-based programs, independent study, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, magnet programs, student exchange programs, distance learning opportunities, internships, community service, or other structured learning experiences. (B) Programs and appropriate assessments shall be planned for individuals and/or a group based on specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards. (C) The principal shall certify completion of curricular activities or



programs based upon specified instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards. (D) Group programs based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards shall be approved in the same manner as other approved courses. (E) Individual programs based upon specific instructional objectives aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards shall be on file in the local district and subject to review by the Commissioner or his or her designee." Districts may also use "performance or competency assessment to approve student completion of programs aimed at meeting or exceeding the Core Curriculum Content Standards at the secondary level, including those occurring all or in part prior to a student's high school enrollment."

**High School Proficiency Assessment Option:** Local boards may give a state-endorsed high school diploma to any student who has (1) scored at the proficient or advanced proficient level in all sections of the HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment); "presented official transcripts showing at least 30 general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education; and (3) has, if a student currently enrolled in a public school; formally requested such early award of a state-endorsed high school diploma."

**Foreign language requirement:** Effective with the Class of 2008, in lieu of completing the five credits in world languages, student may demonstrate proficiency.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=825>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes HSPA

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/hs/>

Additional Resources:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2004/0107grad.htm>

Elizabeth Public Schools

<http://www.elizabeth.k12.nj.us/boardpolicies/Graduation%20Requirements%20Policy%20%208-17-06.pdf>

Bayonne Adult High School

<http://www.bhs.bboed.org/public/community/brochure.pdf>

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## New Mexico

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, NMHSCE

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/NMHSCE/index.html>



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## New York

Yes. "A student may earn a maximum of 6 1/2 units of credit for a ... diploma without completing units of study for such units of credit, if: (i) based on the student's past academic performance, the superintendent of a school district or the chief administrative officer of a registered nonpublic high school, or his or her designee, determines that the student will benefit academically by exercising this alternative; (ii) the student achieves a score of at least 85 percent, or its equivalent as determined by the commissioner, on a State-developed or State-approved assessment ...; (iii) the student passes an oral examination or successfully completes a special project to demonstrate proficiency, in such knowledge, skills and abilities normally developed in the course but not measured by the relevant Regents examination or State-approved examination



if used, as determined by the principal; and (iv) the student attends school, or received substantially equivalent instruction elsewhere, in accordance with section 3204(2) of the Education Law, until the age of 16, pursuant to sections 3204 and 3205 of the Education Law." Regulation also identifies the units of credit a student may receive for earning a score of at least 85 on specified Regents exams or by participating in specific arts activities. In addition, students may be exempted from foreign language coursework requirements "by passing an approved second language proficiency examination when such an examination is available."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=830>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, Regents Exam

<http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/hsregents.html>

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## North Carolina

Yes. College prep student may complete 2 units foreign language by demonstration of proficiency.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=826>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, NCHSCT

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/accountability/parents/highschool>

Additional Resources:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation/>



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## North Dakota

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Ohio

No. However, 2006 [S.B. 311](#) directs the state board of education, in consultation with the Ohio board of regents and the partnership for continued learning, to adopt a plan by April 2009, implementing methods for students to earn high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, either in conjunction with or in place of classroom instruction. The state board must begin phasing in the plan during the 2009-2010 school year.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, OGT

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=216>

Additional Resources:

<http://ims.ode.state.oh.us/ode/ims/sbe/>



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## Oklahoma

Yes. Statute mandates that the state board "provide an option for high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the amount of course credits earned." Upon request by "a student, parent, guardian, or educator, a student will be given the opportunity to



demonstrate proficiency in one or more areas of the core curriculum." Students must have the opportunity to show proficiency in the following areas: social studies, language arts, the arts, languages, math and science. Proficiency must "be demonstrated by assessment or evaluation appropriate to the curriculum area, for example: portfolio, criterion-referenced test, thesis, project, product or performance. Proficiency in all laboratory science courses will require that students are able to perform relevant laboratory techniques." Students must score at least 90% on the assessment or evaluation to obtain credit, and must have the opportunity for proficiency assessment at least twice each school year. "Students will be allowed to take proficiency assessments in multiple areas" and those "not demonstrating proficiency will be allowed to try again during the next assessment period." "Students demonstrating proficiency in a core curriculum area will be given credit for their learning and will be given the opportunity to advance to the next level of study in the appropriate curriculum area" and such demonstration of proficiency must be placed on the student's transcript, as will failure to demonstrate proficiency. "The school will confer with parents in making such promotion/acceleration decisions. Such factors as social and mental growth should be considered. If the parent or guardian requests promotion/acceleration contrary to the recommendation of school personnel, the parent or guardian shall sign a written statement which shall be included in the permanent record of the student. ... Proficiency assessment will measure mastery of the Priority Academic Student Skills in the same way that curriculum and instruction are focused on the Priority Academic Student Skills. In other words, assessment will be aligned with curriculum and instruction. ... Each school district will disseminate materials explaining the opportunities of proficiency based promotion to students and parents in the district each year. Proficiency criteria for each core curriculum area will be made available upon request." "Appropriate notation will be made for elementary, middle level, or high school level students satisfactorily completing grade 9 - 12 high school curriculum areas, Completion may be recorded with a letter grade or pass notation. This curriculum area will count toward meeting the requirements for the high school diploma."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=836>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, EOI

<http://sde.state.ok.us/AcctAssess/core.html>

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## Oregon

Yes. "The district school board may adopt policies for alternative learning experiences, such as credit by examination and credit for off-campus experiences..." More specifically, a student may earn credit by (1) completing "a unit of credit where performance-based criteria acceptable to the school district are identified;" (2) "[Demonstrating] competency or mastery of subject as defined by the school district by any one or more of the following as approved by the district: (A) Successfully [passing] an appropriate exam; (B) [Providing] sample of work or other evidence which demonstrates equivalent knowledge or skill; and (C) [Providing] documentation of prior learning activities or experiences (e.g., certification of training, letters, diplomas, awards, etc.); or" (3) Completing a combination of coursework and the above. In addition, effective with the Class of 2010, a student who completes fewer than 4 years of English or 3 years of math may receive a diploma if the student meets or exceeds "the academic content standards for mathematics or English" or "displays proficiency" in these subjects "at a level established by the board."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=837>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

Credit for Proficiency Resourced, Oregon Department of Education

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1194>

Pilot Program, Oregon Department of Education

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1196>

Diploma, Q&A, Oregon Department of Education



<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1792>

Credit for Proficiency, Oregon Department of Education

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=35>

Albany School District

<http://www.albany.k12.or.us>

Scappoose School District

<http://scappoosesba.wikispaces.com>

Business Education Compact

[www.becpdx.org](http://www.becpdx.org)

Redmond Proficiency Academy

<http://www.rpacademy.org/>

Forest Grove High School

<http://fgsd.fgh.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=96922&sessionid=f560263c8905361d4cb31f60d3a5d680>

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## Pennsylvania

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Rhode Island

"Initial Guidance for the Graduation by Proficiency Component of the Regulations of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Regarding Public High Schools and Ensuring Literacy for Students Entering High School," February 4, 2004

Yes. By the Class of 2008, students must demonstrate proficiency to graduate from high school. Proficiency may be demonstrated through exhibitions such as senior projects, capstone projects, or certificates of initial mastery; portfolios; proficiency-based departmental end-of-course exams; common tasks; and industry skill certifications.

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=839>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No

Providence, Rhode Island

New Feinstein High School

<http://www.providenceschools.org/hs/feinstein/>

Chariho Regional School District, Southern Rhode Island

<http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/teaching-and-learning>

Rhode Island Diploma System

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/highschoolreform/DSLAT/>

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## South Carolina

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## South Dakota

No current policy on proficiency.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Tennessee

Yes. "Students who have taken the equivalent of high school level courses may meet course requirements in accordance with local board of education policies permitting credit by [written] examination." However, "high school credit may not be given by examination in American History." Local boards may also adopt policies allowing students to earn up to 2 units "for out-of-school experiences which are not work-based learning. Such policies shall conform to the Guide for Out-of-School Experiences when developed by the Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education." "A student who completes an approved supervised occupational education program consisting of at least 180 hours will be given one-half credit as an out-of-school experience."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=842>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, Gateway Exam

[http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/sec\\_samplers.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/sec_samplers.shtml)



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## Texas

Yes. A student in grades 6-12 must be awarded credit for a subject in which the student has not had prior instruction if the student scores 90% or higher on a criterion-referenced test for the course. Awarding of credit by exam must be noted on the student's transcript. "In accordance with local school district policy, a student in any of Grades 6-12 may be given credit for an academic subject in which he or she had some prior instruction, if the student scores 70% on a criterion-referenced test for the applicable course." "A course must be considered completed and credit must be awarded if the student has demonstrated achievement by meeting the standard requirements of the course, including demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter, regardless of the time the student has received instruction in the course or the grade level at which proficiency was attained."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=844>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, TAKS

[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3839&menu\\_id3=793](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3839&menu_id3=793)

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074e.html>



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## Utah

Yes. "Students may demonstrate competency to satisfy course requirements...." According to statute, "Any secondary public school student who has completed all required courses or demonstrated mastery of required skills and competencies may, with the approval of the student, the student's parent or guardian, and an authorized local school official, graduate at any time." Regulations define "Demonstrated competence" as "subject mastery as determined by school district standards and review. School district review may include such methods and documentation as: tests, interviews, peer evaluations, writing samples, reports or portfolios." Students may complete units of credit by demonstrated competence and/or assessment, "as determined by the school district or school" and/or "review of student work or projects consistent with school district or school procedures and criteria.... School districts or schools shall designate by written policy at least three methods by which students of the district may earn credit." The state board provides additional information about options for demonstrating proficiency via assessment in UTAH ADMIN. CODE [R277-703-3](#) Effective with the Class of 2008, districts and the department of education will collaborate to develop course descriptions for required and elective courses, "with opportunity for public and parental participation in the development process." These descriptions must include "mastery criteria for the courses, and shall stress mastery of the course material and Core objectives and standards rather than completion of predetermined time allotments for courses." <http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=845>



Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No.

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## Vermont

Yes. Effective June 2005, a student meets the requirements for graduation if, at the election of each secondary school board: (1) the student demonstrates that he or she has attained or exceeded the standards contained in the Framework or comparable standards as measured by results on performance based assessments, plus any additional requirements established by the school board; or (2) the student has successfully completed at least 20 Carnegie units, including at least the following courses of instruction aligned with the Framework or comparable standards: (A) four years of English language arts, (B) three years of science, (C) three years of mathematics, (D) three years of history and the social sciences, (E) one year of the arts, and (F) one and one-half years of physical education; and any additional requirements established by the school board that demonstrate that students have attained or exceeded the Framework or comparable standards or other requirements set by the board; or (3) any combination of 1 and 2 above that demonstrates that students have attained or exceeded the Framework or comparable standards." <http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=846>



Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No.

<http://www.ncsall.net/?id=827>

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## Virginia

Yes. The state board is required to "Establish a procedure to facilitate the acceleration of students that allows qualified students, with the recommendation of the division superintendent, without completing the 140-hour class, to obtain credit for such class upon demonstration of mastery of the course content and objectives. Having received credit for the course, the student shall be permitted to sit for the relevant Standards of Learning assessment and, upon receiving a passing



score, shall earn a verified credit. Nothing in this section shall preclude relevant school division personnel from enforcing compulsory attendance in public schools...."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=847>

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, SOL.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/go/Sols/home.shtml>

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## Washington

WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 180-51-050, 180-51-110

Yes. High school credit may mean "Satisfactory demonstration by a student of clearly identified competencies established pursuant to a process defined in written district policy. Districts are strongly advised to confirm with the higher education coordinating board that the award of competency-based high school credit meets the minimum college core admissions standards set by the higher education coordinating board for admission into a public, baccalaureate institution... The state board of education shall notify the state board for community and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board of any school or school district that awards high school credit" for demonstrated proficiency. In addition, local boards are required to "adopt written policies providing for the granting of high school graduation credit for alternative learning experiences, non-high school courses, work experience, and challenges. High school credits may be given for ... credit based on competency testing, in lieu of enrollment or taking specific courses, may be granted by the district."

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? Yes, WASL

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/default.aspx>

<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/skul151.shtml>

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## West Virginia

W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 126-30-3

Yes. "Credit is to be awarded based upon either demonstrated mastery of the content standards and objectives" through course completion or "tested mastery of approved content standards." Local boards must "determine the level of mastery which constitutes successful completion of a course. Students demonstrating mastery of instructional grade level objectives in the subjects are to be provided the opportunity to advance to the next grade level objectives." "County boards of education may adopt tests based on but not limited to learning objectives which will allow a student to test out of specific required units or prerequisite electives. Any tests adopted must have approval of the West Virginia Department of Education. A student who tests out of an area of study is expected to complete 21 additional units in grades 9-12. The student's permanent record shall indicate completion of the area of study through testing. County boards of education may develop policies and procedures by which students can test out of required units or prerequisite electives."

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No.

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## Wisconsin

WIS. STAT. § 118.33

Yes. A student who was enrolled in an alternative education program and who has not completed the state-specified unit requirements may receive a diploma if the local board determines that the student "has demonstrated a level of proficiency in the subjects" specified in statute "equivalent to that which he or she would have attained if he or she had" taken such courses.

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No



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## Wyoming

WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-2-304; WY Rules and Regulations

Yes. Graduation standards in English, math, science and social studies may be completed "by passing grades or by the successful performance on competency-based equivalency examinations...."

Students must pass exit exam to receive diploma? No.



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