



High School-Level Assessments: Purpose(s) of Exams

By Jennifer Dounay

April 2007

The table below indicates the purposes served by statewide assessments administered in grades 9-12.

	Course credit/ grade	Level of diploma	School accountability	High school graduation (exit exam)	Student non- monetary awards/ recognition	Student financial awards or scholarships	Student promotion/ retention	Certificate of mastery	Required remediation
AL			X	X					
AK			X	X					
AZ			X	X		X			
AR	Eff. 2009-2010		X	Eff. 2009- 2010					X
CA		X	X	X		X			X
CO			X						
CT			X					X	X
DE		X	X			X			X
DC			X						
FL			X	X					X
GA	X		X	X					
HI			X						
ID			X	X					
IL			X		X	X			
IN			X	X					X
IA			X						
KS			X						
KY	Once end-of- course exams are implemented ¹		X		Eff. 2007- 2008				Eff. 2007- 2008
LA		X	X	X					X
ME			X		X				
MD			X	Eff. 2008- 2009					X
MA			X	X		X		X	
MI	Once end-of- course exams are implemented ²		X		X	X			
MN			X	X					X
MS			X	X					
MO	³		X						
MT			X						

¹ End-of-course exams must be piloted no later than the 2007-2008 school year. Final implementation date not known at this time.

² Spring 2009 at the latest

³ Scores from end-of-course assessments are likely to be factored into student grades once these assessments are implemented, although a final policy determination has not yet been made.

	Course credit/ grade	Level of diploma	School accountability	High school graduation (exit exam)	Student non- monetary awards/ recognition	Student financial awards or scholarships	Student promotion/ retention	Certificate of mastery	Required remediation
NE			X ⁴						
NV			X	X					X
NH			X						
NJ			X	X					X
NM			X	X					
NY	X	X	X	X		5			
NC	X		X	X					X
ND			X						
OH			X	X					
OK			X	Eff. 2011- 2012	6				X
OR			X			X		X	X
PA			X		X				
RI			X						
SC	X		X	X					
SD			X						
TN	X		X	X					X
TX			X	X					
UT			X						X
VT			X						
VA	X	X	X	X					X
WA			X	Eff. 2007- 2008	X			Eff. 2007- 2008 ⁷	X
WV			X						
WI			X						
WY			X		X	X			
TOTAL	6 (will increase to 9)	5	51	22 (will increase to 26 by 2011- 2012)	6 (will increase to 7 in 2007- 2008)	8	0	3 (will increase to 4 in 2007- 2008)	18 (will increase to 19 in 2007- 2008)

By Jennifer Dounay, project manager for ECS' High School Policy Center. Dounay can be reached at 303.299.3689 or jdounay@ecs.org

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⁴ Results from local assessments are used for school accountability purposes.

⁵ Each high school in the state is allocated one \$1,500 Scholarship for Academic Excellence, and smaller \$500 scholarships are also available. One of the three state-approved means a school may select for determining the scholarship winner is by weighing Regents examination scores.

⁶ State does not have statewide recognition program, but authorizes districts to award a "certificate of distinction" to a student who meets specified criteria, including satisfactory scores on all end-of-instruction assessments as they are implemented.

⁷ The state has eliminated its Certificate of Mastery, but effective with the Class of 2008, a "Certificate of Academic Achievement" will be awarded a student who meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and math portions of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (exit exam, effective with the Class of 2008). Effective with the Class of 2010, students will also need to pass the science portion of the WASL to earn the certificate.