

Graduation Policies For the Class of 2009

	DEFINING READINESS					HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION CREDENTIALS				
	State has defined college readiness	How college readiness is defined	State has defined work readiness	How work readiness is defined	K-12 work-readiness definition is different from college readiness	Total number of credits required to earn standard diploma	Standard diploma options	Advanced recognition for exceeding standard requirements	Focus for advanced recognition	
ALABAMA			✓	skills		24.0	standard, CTE	✓	academic, CTE	
ALASKA			✓	standards		21.0	standard			
ARIZONA			✓	standards		20.0	standard	✓	academic	
ARKANSAS	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		22.0	standard			
CALIFORNIA	✓	courses	✓	standards	✓	13.0	standard	✓	academic	
COLORADO							standard			
CONNECTICUT	in progress		✓	skills		20.0	standard			
DELAWARE						22.0	standard			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						23.5	standard			
FLORIDA	in progress		in progress			24.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
GEORGIA	in progress		✓	skills, standards		22.0	college prep, CTE	✓	academic, CTE	
HAWAII						22.0	standard	✓	academic	
IDAHO						21.0	standard			
ILLINOIS						16.0	standard			
INDIANA	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		20.0	standard	✓	academic	
IOWA	✓	standards, tests	✓	standards			standard	✓	local option	
KANSAS			in progress			21.0	standard			
KENTUCKY	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests				22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
LOUISIANA	in progress		in progress			23.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
MAINE	in progress		in progress			16.0	standard			
MARYLAND	✓	courses	✓	skills, standards	✓	21.0	standard	✓	local option	
MASSACHUSETTS			✓	standards			standard	✓	academic	
MICHIGAN	✓	courses, standards	✓	courses, skills, standards, tests			standard			
MINNESOTA	✓	standards	✓	standards		21.5	standard			
MISSISSIPPI	✓	skills				21.0	standard			
MISSOURI	in progress		✓	standards		22.0	standard	✓	academic	
MONTANA	in progress		✓	standards		20.0	standard			
NEBRASKA						200 credit hours ¹	standard			
NEVADA						22.5	standard, CTE	✓	academic	
NEW HAMPSHIRE			✓	standards		19.75	standard	✓	local option	
NEW JERSEY	✓	courses, standards	✓	courses, skills, standards		22.0	standard			
NEW MEXICO	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		23.0	standard			
NEW YORK	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	courses, standards, tests		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
NORTH CAROLINA	in progress		in progress			20.0	standard	✓	academic	
NORTH DAKOTA			✓	standards		21.0	standard			
OHIO	✓	skills				20.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
OKLAHOMA	✓	courses, standards, tests	✓	standards, tests		23.0	standard	✓	academic	
OREGON	in progress		✓	standards		22.0	standard			
PENNSYLVANIA	✓	standards	✓	standards			standard	✓	academic	
RHODE ISLAND	in progress		in progress			20.0	standard			
SOUTH CAROLINA	✓	courses, skills, standards	✓	courses, tests	✓	24.0	standard			
SOUTH DAKOTA						22.0	standard	✓	academic	
TENNESSEE	✓	courses, skills	✓	skills, standards	✓	20.0	standard			
TEXAS	✓	skills, standards				24.0	standard	✓	academic	
UTAH						15.0	standard			
VERMONT						20.0	standard			
VIRGINIA			✓	skills, standards		22.0	standard	✓	academic, CTE	
WASHINGTON	✓	standards	✓	skills, standards		19.0	standard			
WEST VIRGINIA	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	courses, skills, tests	✓	24.0	standard			
WISCONSIN	in progress		in progress			13.0	standard			
WYOMING						13.0	standard	✓	academic	
U.S.	20		28		5	20.7²		24		

• CTE refers to career and technical education.
 • Exit-exam subjects tested: E=English (includes writing), M=Mathematics, S=Science, H=History/Social Studies, and T=Technology

SOURCE: For information on indicator definitions and sources, see Page 38.

HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMS

	Basis for advanced recognition	Alternative credential for not meeting all standard requirements	Basis for alternative credential	K-12 system offers pathway leading to industry-recognized certificate or license	State has exit exam	Subjects tested	Exam based on standards for 10th grade or higher	State finances remediation for students failing exit exams	Appeals or alternative route to diploma	
	courses	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	ALABAMA
		✓	fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓		✓	ALASKA
	tests			✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	ARIZONA
				✓	Class of 2010					ARKANSAS
	tests	✓	pass proficiency test	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	CALIFORNIA
				✓						COLORADO
		✓	disabilities							CONNECTICUT
		✓	disabilities							DELAWARE
	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	FLORIDA
	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities	✓						GEORGIA
				✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	HAWAII
				✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	IDAHO
	courses, GPA			✓	✓	EM		✓	✓	ILLINOIS
	local option			✓						INDIANA
				✓						IOWA
	courses, tests	✓	disabilities	✓						KANSAS
	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH ³	✓	✓	✓	KENTUCKY
				✓						LOUISIANA
	local option	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	MAINE
	courses, GPA, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EM	✓	✓	✓	MARYLAND
		✓	local option	✓						MASSACHUSETTS
				✓	✓	EM		✓	✓	MICHIGAN
		✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	MINNESOTA
	courses, GPA, tests			✓						MISSISSIPPI
				✓						MISSOURI
				✓						MONTANA
	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓		✓	NEBRASKA
	local option	✓	local option	✓						NEVADA
				✓	✓	EM	✓		✓	NEW HAMPSHIRE
		✓	fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	NEW JERSEY
	tests	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH	✓		✓	NEW MEXICO
	courses, GPA	✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMT		✓	✓	NEW YORK
				✓						NORTH CAROLINA
	courses, GPA, tests			✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓	✓	NORTH DAKOTA
	courses, GPA, tests			✓	Class of 2012					OHIO
		✓	local option							OKLAHOMA
	tests			✓						OREGON
		✓	disabilities	✓						PENNSYLVANIA
				✓	✓	EM	✓			RHODE ISLAND
	courses, GPA			✓						SOUTH CAROLINA
		✓	disabilities, fail exit exam	✓	✓	EMS	✓			SOUTH DAKOTA
	courses, tests	✓	local option	✓	✓	EMSH	✓	✓		TENNESSEE
		✓	district criteria	✓						TEXAS
				✓						UTAH
	courses, GPA, tests	✓	disabilities	✓	✓	EMSH ⁴	✓	✓	✓	VERMONT
				✓	✓	E ⁵	✓	✓	✓	VIRGINIA
		✓	disabilities	✓						WASHINGTON
				✓						WEST VIRGINIA
	tests	✓	local option							WISCONSIN
										WYOMING
		27		38	24		20	17	21	U.S.

- Credit hours for Nebraska are not expressed in Carnegie units.
- Subject-specific credits for states that do not have total course-credit requirements are not listed in the total-credits column and are not reflected in the national average for total credit requirements.
- Students must pass either the science or social studies components of the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) to receive a standard diploma.
- To receive a standard diploma, students must earn at least six verified credits by passing end-of-course assessments. One of these credits may be earned by passing a student-selected test in computer science, technology, career and technical education, or other areas.
- For the graduating class of 2009, students must pass an exit exam in reading and writing, but may meet the state's math requirement by passing its standardized math assessment or continuing to earn math credits until they graduate.