

Nevada
Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies

<i>State exit exam policy</i>	All students must pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) in math, reading, science, and writing in order to graduate.
Type of test	Comprehensive standards-based exam
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' knowledge and skill levels relative to those needed for entry-level employment • Determine prospective high school graduates' knowledge and skill levels relative to those needed for postsecondary education • Determine prospective high school graduates' mastery of the state curriculum • Encourage districts and schools to identify and serve students at risk of academic failure • Provide data to state policymakers on student attainment of state education goals to inform educational policy decisions • Increase alignment of local curriculum and programs of instruction with state education standards • Promote equity of opportunity across all student groups • Meet a state mandate
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	None
Major changes in exit exam policy since the 2009-10 school year for <i>other</i> reasons	In May 2011, the state Senate approved Assembly Bill 456, which would allow high school students to receive a diploma based on a cumulative score even if they fail one of the four tests. Students would have to have a grade point average of 2.75 or better, a good attendance record, and no ongoing disciplinary issues. The bill is awaiting Governor Brian Sandoval's approval or veto.

Year first administered	The 1998 series exam, which is based on content standards adopted that year, was first administered in 2001.
Year diplomas first withheld	The class of 2003 was the first required to pass the 1998 series tests.
Subjects tested on exam	Math, reading, writing, & science
Subjects required for graduation	Math, reading, writing, & science
Grade exam first administered	10 th grade in the spring semester
Grade(s) exam aligned to	State standards for grades 9-12
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	Six
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	Following the summer after their planned graduation date, students who have completed all graduation requirements except passing an exit exam may enroll in an adult education program to continue to take the tests. They may take the tests as many times as needed with no limits on age, and if they pass they will still receive a regular high school diploma.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	Results from students' initial testing and first retest count for NCLB purposes. Nevada began using the results from the HSPE to meet NCLB requirements in 2003-04. The science test was also used for NCLB purposes in 2007-08. Science is not part of the adequate yearly progress (AYP) calculations, but the test is administered and scores are reported as required by NCLB.
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	In May 2011, the state Senate approved Assembly Bill 456, which would allow high school students to receive a diploma based on a cumulative score even if they fail one of the four tests. Students would have to have a grade point average of 2.75 or better, a good attendance record, and no ongoing disciplinary issues. The bill is awaiting Governor Brian Sandoval's approval or veto.

<p>Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities</p>	<p>Students must pass the HSPE reading and math requirements, but may pursue the alternate route described below to demonstrate proficiency for writing and science. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency on all portions of the high school proficiency examinations can receive a certificate of attendance.</p> <p>SB312 was passed by the 2007 state legislature, allowing students who meet particular criteria to submit other work completed during high school to meet the HSPE requirements. Students still must pass the HSPE reading and math tests, but may pursue the alternate route to demonstrate proficiency for writing and science. Students who successfully demonstrate proficiency in writing and science via this alternate route will receive a regular diploma.</p> <p>To be eligible for this alternate route, students must have done the following by the end of the first semester of grade 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Failed the selected test at least two times b) Earned a cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 2.75 c) Passed the HSPE reading and math tests d) Be on schedule for earning the credits required for graduation. <p>The state has developed guidelines for the writing test that were published for the schools and school districts in the spring of 2008. The science test was administered for the first time in 2008, so the first group of students eligible for the alternative assessment in science was in the spring of 2010.</p>
<p>Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation</p>	<p>The school and district level administration certify that the student meets the requirements as outlined by state statute and regulation.</p>
<p>Number and percentage of students who used alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year</p>	<p>18 students, or 0.07%</p>
<p>Alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners</p>	<p>There are no alternate paths to graduation specifically for English language learners. English language learners can, however, receive a certificate of attendance if they complete the required credits for graduation but do not pass all of the high school proficiency examinations.</p>

	ELL students have access to the same accommodations that are available to all students, including extra time and any other accommodation that is listed in the state test administration manual. They can use a translation dictionary.
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	<p>A student with an approved individualized education program (IEP) may take the HSPE with accommodations or modifications. They may also receive an adjusted diploma if they complete the graduation requirements specified in their IEP but do not pass all portions of the HSPE.</p> <p>Students with disabilities have access to any accommodations available to all students as listed in the state test administration manual. In addition they can have accommodations prescribed by their IEP committee, as long as the accommodation does not alter the construct being assessed. The use of this level of accommodation would then be considered a modification and would remove the student from the option of a regular high school diploma.</p>
Number and percentage of students with disabilities using alternate paths in the 2010-11 school year	No response
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	www.nevadareportcard.com
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	Nevada has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	Nevada is a member of SMARTER Balanced.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school exit exam policies	The state will transition the basis for item development and use on the state HSPE in reading, writing, and math from the current state standards to the CCSS over the next several years. The transition of the basis for assessment to the CCSS in reading and writing will occur in 2011-12. The transition to the CCSS in math will start in 2011-12 for algebra, adding the CCSS in geometry in 2012-13, Algebra II in 2013-14, with full implementation of the CCSS for math in 2014-15.
Plans to replace or realign the current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes, starting in 2012
Plans to replace or realign the current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS	Yes, gradual replacement of the current test with a test based on CCSS in math. The transition to the CCSS in math will start in 2011-12 for algebra, adding the CCSS in geometry in 2012-13, Algebra II in 2013-14, with full implementation of the CCSS for math in 2014-15.
Plans to maintain current exit exams in subjects other than English language arts and math once the Common Core State Standards are fully implemented	Yes
Will changes in state exit exams mentioned	It is expected that the transition to the exam based on the CCSS will make the exams more

above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?	rigorous, particularly in reading.
Preparation for students and teachers to transition to the new exam	The state has engaged the school districts, the universities, and the regional professional development programs to provide long term, targeted professional development for teachers based on the CCSS and the changes in curriculum that will be needed to implement the CCSS in Nevada.