

**South Carolina**  
**Profile of State High School Exit Exam Policies**

<b><i>State exit exam policy</i></b>	All students must pass the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) exit examination in English language arts and mathematics to receive a South Carolina high school diploma.
Type of test	English language arts and mathematics tests are standards-based. Science and U.S. History and the Constitution are assessed through end-of-course examinations, but students may receive a diploma without passing the end-of-course exams.
Purpose	The purpose of the test is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstrate students' achievement based on selected South Carolina academic standards</li> <li>● Provide data to state policymakers on student attainment of state education goals to inform educational policy decisions</li> <li>● Meet state and federal mandates</li> </ul>
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	None
Year first administered	<p>Prior to the High School Assessment Program, the state administered the Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP), a minimum-competency exam, as its exit exam. The BSAP exam was first given in 1986.</p> <p>The HSAP was field-tested for exit exam purposes in spring 2003. Results from this same administration were also used as a baseline for NCLB accountability.</p> <p>Beginning in spring 2004, HSAP was gradually phased in as the state exit examination.</p>

Year diplomas first withheld	Diplomas were first held in 1990 using the BSAP assessment.
Subjects tested on exam	The current exit examination has an English language arts test and a mathematics test.  Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, students were required to pass high school credit courses in science and US History and the Constitution. A student's score on the corresponding end-of-course exams counted as 20% of the final course grade.
Subjects required for graduation	English language arts and mathematics
Grade exam first administered	HSAP tests are first administered to students in the second spring after their initial enrollment in the 9th grade. For most students, this is in the 10th grade.
Grade(s) exam aligned to	The test is aligned to standards that a student would have an opportunity to learn by the second spring after the initial enrollment in the 9th grade. These standards include selected standards across many grades, but do not include standards for 11th or 12th grade that students have not had an opportunity to learn.
Number of retakes allowed <i>before</i> the end of grade 12	The HSAP is administered each spring and fall. Students who follow a normal progression through high school will have four opportunities before the end of the 12th grade. There are unlimited retakes as long as the student is actively enrolled in the public high school or adult education program.
Number of retakes allowed <i>after</i> grade 12	There are unlimited retakes as long as the student is actively enrolled in the public high school or adult education program. A summer administration of the HSAP is available for students who are expected to graduate by the beginning of the next school year.
Is the exit exam used for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability purposes?	HSAP test results in English language arts and mathematics have been used for NCLB reporting beginning with the spring 2003 administration.

Is the same cut score used for graduation and NCLB accountability purposes?	No. The cut score for the exit exam requirement (level 2) is lower than the cut score for NCLB proficiency (level 3).
Considerations given to changing the cut score needed to pass the exam for graduation purposes in the past year	None
Alternate paths to graduation for students other than English language learners (ELLs) or students with disabilities	None. All students, including ELL students and students with disabilities, must pass the exit exam as one requirement for a state high school diploma.
Determination of eligibility to pursue these alternate paths to graduation	Not applicable
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	No. All students, including ELL students and students with disabilities, must pass the exit exam as one requirement for a state high school diploma.
Number and percentage of ELL students using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	Not applicable
Alternate paths to graduation specifically for students with disabilities	None. All students, including ELL students and students with disabilities, must pass the exit exam as one requirement for a state high school diploma.
Number and percentage of students with	Not applicable

disabilities using alternate paths in 2010-11 school year	
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	Student performance on the spring HSAP tests is available at <a href="http://ed.sc.gov/data/hsap/index.cfm">http://ed.sc.gov/data/hsap/index.cfm</a> and <a href="http://ed.sc.gov/data/hsap/documents/DistrictLevelHSAPData.pdf">http://ed.sc.gov/data/hsap/documents/DistrictLevelHSAPData.pdf</a>
State participation in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)	South Carolina has adopted the CCSS in both English language arts and math.
CCSS testing consortia membership	South Carolina is a member of both PARCC and SMARTER Balanced.
Impact of adoption of the CCSS on high school	Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed

<p>exit exam policies</p>	<p>by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>
<p>Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in English language arts with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS</p>	<p>Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>
<p>Plans to replace or realign current exit exam in math with a new assessment aligned to the CCSS</p>	<p>Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>
<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>Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>
<p>Will changes in state exit exams mentioned above make the exams more rigorous, less rigorous, or about the same?</p>	<p>Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>
<p>Preparation for students and teachers to transition to new exam</p>	<p>Decisions about assessments in South Carolina, including the exit exam, are governed by state law and the State Board of Education and have not been made.</p>