

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST REPEAL

## [House Bill 15-091](#)

**PURPOSE** – Research has shown that tying test scores to graduation requirements has few clear benefits though such policies do increase dropout rates, particularly among Black and Hispanic students. In theory, requiring a test to graduate motivates students and teachers to meet higher standards and prevents unprepared students from earning a high school diploma. In reality, fewer students earn diplomas while overall college and workforce outcomes do not improve.

As states like Georgia implemented college and career standards similar to Common Core, an opportunity arose to revisit and revise exit exam policies. Keeping in place a policy that had been denying diplomas and increasing dropout rates while phasing in new, more complicated standards and assessments would exacerbate existing problems. Georgia chose to make higher education and workforce opportunities available for more students by eliminating exit exam requirements and retroactively granting diplomas.

**SUMMARY** – This law provides that students shall no longer be required to earn a passing score on any graduation tests to earn a high school diploma. The law also contains additional details and requirements regarding the ability of students no longer enrolled in high school to petition their local board of education for a diploma if the sole reason they had been denied one previously was not passing any part of the graduation tests.

The law includes all subjects, forms, and versions of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests retroactive to the Georgia Basic Skills Test administered in 1981.

**LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE/CITATION** -- The full text of this law is available [here](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20152016/145780):  
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20152016/145780>

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS** – During the COVID19 pandemic Georgia's Governor suspended high school testing requirements for state college scholarship eligibility. The full text of the Executive Order can be found [here](#) with relevant information found on pages 10-12.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** – ???