

## HSGQE Relevancy

### National Comparison

- As of June 2013 there were 26 states reporting having current or planned high school exit exam policies (*25 current, 1 planned - RI*)
  - This represented 69% of the nation's public high school students (*25 states*)
  - 4 states have recently decided to phase out exit exam requirements (*AL, NC, GA, TN*)
  - 18 states, including Alaska have Comprehensive exit exams (*aligned to state standards and generally targeted to the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade level*).
    - Of the 18 states with Comprehensive exit exams 7 also assess at least one end-of course (EOC) exams (*FL, GA, MA, NM, SC, TX, WA*)

### Alaska Summary

- Passage of the HSGQE to obtain a diploma became effective in 2004
  - Students must pass 3 separate subtests – Reading, Writing, Mathematics
  - Individuals can participate twice a year
  - Grade 10 students take a combined SBA/HSGQE in Spring
  - Grade 11-12 students take HSGQE Retest in either Fall or Spring
- Skills tested by HSGQE
  - Reading
    - Reading comprehension, identification and support for main ideas, application of multi-step directions, ability to make and support assertions, and analysis and evaluation of themes
    - Multiple-choice questions target specific skills, and constructed response questions allow students to elaborate on and to make comparisons among various aspects of the texts. Excerpts from published literature are the basis for evaluating reading skills.
  - Writing
    - Writing compositions, using conventions of Standard English (spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation), and revising writing to improve expression.
    - Multiple-choice questions evaluate specific aspects of writing skill, and constructed-response writing prompts ask students to write and edit narrative, descriptive, and persuasive essays on various topics.
  - Math
    - Computation skills; reading, interpreting, and constructing graphs; and principles of geometry and measurement
    - Students will use a ruler and a protractor for a portion of the subtest. Procedures such as estimation and mental computation are interwoven throughout this examination.

- Current Grade 10 HSGQE Pass Rates (2013):
  - o Reading – 84%
  - o Writing – 72%
  - o Math – 77%
  - o All Three – 65%
  
- The 2012 senior class cohort group had a combined cumulative passage rate of over 90%
  - o This means that over 90% of the students in the 2012 senior class passed all three parts of the HSGQE in their high school career
  
- There were 1,597 seniors in 2010 that completed the school year but did not receive a diploma
  - o Over 53% of those seniors had already passed all three parts of the HSGQE
  
- There were 1,325 seniors in 2013 that completed the school year but did not receive a diploma
  - o Over 62% of those seniors had already passed all three parts of the HSGQE
    - 16% of this group were LEP students
    - 21% of this group were IEP students
  
- Our statewide graduation rate increased by 2.1% to 71.7% in 2013. This is the fifth consecutive year showing an increase.

#### Historical Graduation Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Grads</u>
2004	62.9%	7,290
2005	61.4%	6,905
2006	61.6%	7,361
2007	63.0%	7,666
2008	62.6%	7,855
2009	67.5%	8,008
2010	67.7%	8,245
2011	68.0%	8,064
2012	69.6%	7,989
2013	71.7%	7,795

#### Current High School Graduation Requirements

21 total units of credit

4 units – language arts

3 units – social studies (*0.5 credit must include Alaska history*)

2 units – mathematics

2 units – science

1 unit – health/physical education

- Twenty states require more than 21 credits, five others require 21, eighteen require less than 21 and six other states did not have requirements.