

# AIMS High School Graduation Requirement

## Overview

April 2010

### Background

State statute (ARS §15-701.01) and State Board of Education Rules (R7-2-302, R7-2-302.01, and R7-2-302.02) establish AIMS HS Writing, Reading, and Mathematics as the competency tests students must pass for graduation from an Arizona public high school. This requirement was first effective for the graduating class of 2006.

Students have their first opportunity to test on AIMS HS Writing, Reading, and Mathematics during the spring semester of their second year of high school. Students may retake the AIMS HS tests once each fall and spring semester, as needed, until graduation.

For those students who do not earn passing scores on all three content areas of AIMS HS there are alternative methods for meeting the AIMS high school graduation requirement.

### Alternative Methods

These alternative methods are authorized by state statute (ARS §15-701.01 and §15-701.02)

- **College Entrance Exam Reciprocity**  
Certain scores on the SAT or the ACT are acceptable in lieu of passing AIMS HS scores. To qualify for this alternative method, **students must test on AIMS HS at every opportunity**. More details are posted online at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).
- **Other States' Exam Reciprocity**  
For students who transfer into an Arizona public school from out-of-state, certain scores on other states' statewide high school exams are acceptable in lieu of passing AIMS HS scores. More details are posted online at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).
- **AIMS Augmentation**  
Student may add bonus points, based on grades earned in required courses, to non-passing AIMS HS scores. To qualify for this alternative method, **students must test on AIMS HS at every opportunity**. Detailed rules for AIMS Augmentation and an AIMS Augmentation worksheet are posted online at [www.azed.gov](http://www.azed.gov).
- **Waiver for students with an IEP or 504 Plan**  
Students with an IEP or 504 plan are not required to pass any AIMS HS tests for graduation unless such a requirement is specifically identified in the IEP or 504 plan.

While multiple alternative methods may be used to meet the AIMS HS Graduation requirement, there are no provisions for combining alternative methods. For example, augmentation does not apply to the various reciprocal exams. For a specific content area of AIMS HS, only one alternative method may be applied. If needed, a different method may be used for each content area. For example, a student who transfers into an Arizona public high school from out-of-state might meet the AIMS HS graduation requirement in one content area via reciprocity with the state exam from his/her previous state, meet the requirement for a second content area by earning a passing score on AIMS HS, and meet the requirement for the third content area via AIMS Augmentation. **Documenting how a student met the AIMS high school graduation requirement is the responsibility of the school.**

Questions about the AIMS high school graduation requirement may be directed to Irene Hunting, Director of State Test Administration at [Irene.Hunting@azed.gov](mailto:Irene.Hunting@azed.gov) or 602.542.5450.