

1                                   **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AMENDMENTS**

2   2006 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Mark B. Madsen**

5                                   House Sponsor: James A. Ferrin

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7   **LONG TITLE**

8   **General Description:**

9               This bill allows a public school student or home school student to receive a diploma  
10 based on certain assessment results.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12               This bill:

13               ▶ allows a student enrolled in a high school in the state or attending a home school in  
14 the state to receive a high school diploma if the student passes the basic skills  
15 competency test and receives certain scores on the ACT.

16 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

17               None

18 **Other Special Clauses:**

19               None

20 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

21 AMENDS:

22               **53A-1-611**, as last amended by Chapter 7, Laws of Utah 2002, Fifth Special Session

23 ENACTS:

24               **53A-15-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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26 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

27               Section 1. Section **53A-1-611** is amended to read:



28           **53A-1-611. Standards and assessment processes to measure student performance**  
29 **-- Basic skills competency test.**

30           (1) The Legislature recognizes the need for the State Board of Education to develop  
31 and implement standards and assessment processes to ensure that student progress is measured  
32 and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

33           (2) (a) In addition to its responsibilities under Sections 53A-1-603 through 53A-1-605,  
34 the State Board of Education, through the state superintendent of public instruction, shall  
35 design a basic skills competency test to be administered in the tenth grade.

36           (b) A student must pass the basic skills competency test, in addition to the established  
37 requirements of the state and local board of education of the district in which the student  
38 attends school, in order to receive a basic high school diploma of graduation.

39           (c) The state board shall include in the test, at a minimum, components on English  
40 language arts and reading and mathematics.

41           (d) A student who fails to pass all components of the test may not receive a basic high  
42 school diploma but may receive a certificate of completion or alternative completion diploma  
43 under rules made by the State Board of Education in accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a,  
44 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

45           (e) The state board shall make rules:

46           (i) to allow students who initially fail the test to retake all or part of the test; and

47           (ii) that take into account and are consistent with federal law relating to students with  
48 disabilities in the administration of the test.

49           (3) The state board shall implement the tenth grade basic skills competency test, no  
50 later than the beginning of the 2003-04 school year.

51           (4) The requirements of this section are to be complementary to the other achievement  
52 testing provisions of this part.

53           (5) A student who attends a home school may take the basic skills competency test at a  
54 school within the student's school district of residence at the same time the test is administered  
55 to public school students.

56           Section 2. Section **53A-15-104** is enacted to read:

57           **53A-15-104. Diploma awarded to public school and home school students based**  
58 **on assessments.**

59           (1) A student enrolled in a high school in this state ~~§~~→ **[may receive a diploma from the**  
60 **high school in which the student is enrolled;]** ~~←§~~ and a student that attends a home school ~~§~~→ **[may]**  
60a **shall, upon request of the student's parent or guardian, ←§**  
61 **receive a diploma §**→ **[from the student's school district of residence] issued by the State Board of**  
61a **Education ←§** , if the student:  
62           (a) passes the basic skills competency test provided by Section 53A-1-611; and  
63           (b) receives a score on each ACT subtest that ranks in the top 15% of Utah students'  
64 scores for the subtest.  
65           (2) (a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to the ACT optional writing subtest.  
66           (b) A student may satisfy the requirement in Subsection (1)(b) with subtest scores from  
67 different administrations of the ACT.  
67a ~~§~~→ **(3) A diploma issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall**  
67b **indicate the recipient has met state high school graduation requirements by demonstrating**  
67c **mastery of knowledge and skills through assessments. ←§**

**Legislative Review Note**

as of 1-25-06 12:43 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

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**Fiscal Note**  
**Bill Number SB0204**

**High School Graduation Amendments**

*07-Feb-06*

*10:24 AM*

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**State Impact**

Any cost associated with this bill can be handled within existing budgets

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**Individual and Business Impact**

None

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**