

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mark B. Madsen

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows a student who resides in Utah to receive a diploma based on certain assessment results.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

► allows a student who resides in Utah to receive a high school diploma if the student passes the basic skills competency test and receives certain scores on the ACT.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

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

ENACTS:

53A-15-105, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

53A-1-611. Standards and assessment processes to measure student performance

S.B. 142



-- Basic skills competency test.

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The state board shall make rules:

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

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

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

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

(5) No age restrictions shall apply to students to take the basic skills competency test.

Section 2. Section **53A-15-105** is enacted to read:

53A-15-105. Diploma awarded to Utah students based on assessments.

(1) A student who resides in Utah shall, upon request of the student's parent or guardian, receive a diploma issued by the State Board of Education, if the student:

(a) passes the basic skills competency test provided by Section 53A-1-611; and

(b) receives a score on each ACT subtest that ranks in the top 15% of Utah students'

59 scores for the subtest.
60 (2) (a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to the ACT optional writing subtest.
61 (b) A student may satisfy the requirement in Subsection (1)(b) with subtest scores from
62 different administrations of the ACT.
63 (3) A diploma issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall
64 indicate the recipient has met state high school graduation requirements by demonstrating
65 mastery of knowledge and skills through assessments.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-2-08 2:56 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 142 - High School Graduation Requirements

Fiscal Note

2008 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations. It may require additional State Board of Education staff time to verify test scores and issue diplomas which would require some changes in job priorities among staff.

Enactment of this bill may also result in some private and home school students seeking to take the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test, each additional test costs approximately \$11. Enactment of this bill may result in public school students meeting diploma requirements prior to their senior year in high school. Students that exit the public school system prior to their intended date of graduation may result in some savings to the Minimum School Program associated with fewer students receiving WPU funding.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill may result in qualifying public school students seeking fee waivers for ACT administration fees.
