

POLICY TITLE: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION: ALTERNATE MEASURES FOR DEMONSTRATING PROFICIENCYBackground

Parents have the right to decide how to educate their children, whether through public school, private school, or home schooling. I.C. 32-1012 codifies this right. The Board of Education has been charged constitutionally and statutorily with the general supervision of Idaho's public school system and for setting standards for a uniform and thorough system of public education. If parents choose to send their children through the public school system and want their children to receive a diploma from a public high school, those students must meet the graduation requirements set forth by the Board of Education and adopted by the State through the administrative rulemaking process under the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA). Graduation requirements are found in IDAPA 08.02.03.105. These are the minimum graduation requirements. School districts are allowed to, and often do, set higher graduation requirements.

In order to graduate from public high school, students must show they are proficient or advanced in the state English language arts and math content standards. This is normally achieved through scoring proficient or advanced on the Grade 10 Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the ISAT prior to graduation may appeal to the Board of Trustees. At the Board's discretion, the student may be given an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency of the achievement standards through locally established measures.

Student Qualifications

Before entering an alternate measure, students filing an appeal to use the locally established measures to demonstrate proficiency, must be enrolled in:

1. Special Education and have an IEP/504 plan; or
2. Limited English Proficient (LEP) program for three academic years or less; or
3. The fall semester of the student's senior year and have not previously met the proficiency requirements.

Criteria for Alternate Measures

The alternate measures must comply with the following criteria prescribed in IDAPA 08.02.03.105.06.b:

1. Multiple measures of student achievement;
2. Must be aligned to the tenth grade content standards, at a minimum;
3. Must be aligned to the state content standards for the subject matter in question;
4. Must be valid and reliable; and

5. Ninety percent (90%) of the criteria of the measure, or combination of measures, must be based on academic proficiency and performance.

If, for any reason, a student misses all of the opportunities to take the ISAT by the end of the student's 11th grade year, COSSA Academy administration should start the process of putting the student on the school district's alternate route for graduation.

There is no formal mechanism for parents to opt their children out of taking the ISAT and there is no legal requirement that parent's sign an "opt out" form.

Filing with the State Board of Education

Upon adoption by the Board of Trustees, the locally established alternate measures to demonstrate proficiency, and any subsequent modifications, shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education for its review. Alternate measures must be resubmitted to the Board when changes are made in the plan.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code 32-1012

IDAPA 08.02.03.105

Idaho State Board of Education, "Guidance on State Graduation Requirements and Participation in State Assessment", dated February 18, 2016

POLICY HISTORY:

Adopted: 5/19/2016