



★ **What is the HSGQE?**

This is a test that all students must pass in Alaska in order to graduate with a diploma from high school. The test has three different parts: reading, writing, and math. Students take this test for the first time in the spring of 10th grade. If a student does not pass one or more parts, the student is able to retake the test in the fall and spring of 11th and, if need be, 12th grade.

A student who does not pass one or more parts of the HSGQE, but earns all the required school district credits by the end of 12th grade will earn a Certificate of Achievement instead of a diploma. A student may continue taking the HSGQE after high school until all parts are passed, though the school district is not responsible for supporting the student.

★ **Why do we have the HSGQE?**

Business leaders and legislators across the state wanted to ensure that all students who graduated from high school, regardless if they live in an urban or rural area, graduate with reading, writing, and math skills that will allow them to successfully enter the work force.

★ **Who must take the HSGQE?**

All students in Alaska must take this exam. If a student has an individual education plan (IEP) that student may have accommodations. For further information speak to your school or go to <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/hsgqe.html> and click on the link called "Guidance for Parents of Ninth Graders Transitioning into High School."

★ **What is the difference between the HSGQE and the Standard Based Assessments (SBAs)?**

The Federal government requires that all states measure the progress of all students in reading/writing and math in 3rd – 10th grade. Alaska meets this requirement by having students take the SBAs.

Because the State of Alaska requires all students to take the HSGQE in 10th grade and the Federal government requires all 10th graders to take the SBA, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development put the two exams into one exam to make it easier on the students. Some questions are scored for the HSGQE and some for the SBA. It is possible for a child to be proficient on the HSGQE and below proficient on the SBA.



Forming Strong Partnerships for Student Success

★ **What happens when my child passes the HSGQE?**

Your child has met one of the requirements for earning a diploma. It is strongly recommended that students continue taking math, reading, and writing classes in high school, even if the student has passed all three parts of the HSGQE. Passing the HSGQE doesn't guarantee the child is ready for higher education after high school. The HSGQE measures minimum skills a student should have after attending public school.

★ **How can I help my child with the HSGQE?**

- Talk to your child every day about school and send the message that school is very important.
- Talk to your child's teachers each week about how your child is doing in the classes. Ask the teachers what they are doing to help prepare your child for the HSGQE. Ask what you can do at home to help your child.
- Make sure your child is well rested each day for school. This is especially important on testing days.
- Encourage your child to take additional reading, writing, and math classes in high school, even after your child has passed the HSGQE.
- Testing days can be very stressful to your child. Do something fun with your child at the end of each testing day or have your child's favorite meal for dinner.

**For additional information contact
Mike Travis - miket@serrc.org
Karin Halpin - karinh@serrc.org
907-349-0651
or visit AKPIRC's website at:
www.akpirc.org**