

## Students with Disabilities and the Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any student with a disability(s) (defined by the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is eligible to receive the AHSD if he or she has taken the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) through the twelfth grade, passed all but one subject-area test of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam, or passed three subject –area tests for the AHSD with Credit Based Endorsement, met all other graduation requirements, and has the required alternate documentation.

The required alternate documentation must be verified by the special education coordinator or 504 coordinator, approved by the high school principal, school counselor, and special education teacher, and must include the following:

1. Completion of all course credits for the AHSD or completion of all course credits for the AOD.
2. Documentation of the disability which substantially limits achievement in the area of the one subject-area test of the AHSGE that was not passed.
3. Participation in remediation activities (extent and nature determined by the local school system) during high school.
4. Met attendance requirements of the local school system.
5. Hold a cumulative “C” grade average for all coursework (Grades 9-12).

The flexibility granted through these new rules is retroactive to first-time ninth graders in the 1997-1998 school year (Class of 2001) and applies only to students with disabilities (defined by IDEA and/or Section 504) taking the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. This exception also applies to the Alabama High School Diploma with Credit Based Endorsement.

*Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-3-1-.02 (8)(h)6.*

## Considerations for Desired Post-School Outcomes

### Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement (AHSD/AAE)

### Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD) without Endorsement(AHSD)

### Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career/Technical Endorsement (AHSD/ACTE)

### Alabama High School Diploma with Career /Technical Endorsement (AHSD/CTE)

### Alabama High School Diploma with Credit Based Endorsement(AHSD/CBE)

Prepares students for many post-school options:

- Accepted by postsecondary institutions
- Accepted by the military
- Accepted by employers

### Alabama Occupational Diploma (AOD)

### Available to Students with Disabilities as Defined by IDEA and Certain General Education Students)

Prepares students for competitive employment and limited post-school options:

- Accepted by many employers
- Accepted by the Alabama College System in degree programs with an ACT of 16
- Accepted by the Alabama College System in certain non-certificated programs
- May be accepted by the military on a case-by-case basis

### Graduation Certificate (CERTIFICATE)

### Only Available to Students with Disabilities as Defined by IDEA)

Prepares students for their post-school transitional goals:

- Not generally accepted by postsecondary institutions
- Not accepted by military recruiters
- May not be accepted by some employers



### **Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Career/Technical Endorsement (AHSD/ACTE)**

Earn 24 Required Credits  
Including: Advanced level work in the core curriculum, Algebra II with Trigonometry, 3 credits  
Career/Technical Education (sequenced program of courses)

Assessment Requirement:  
PASS the Alabama High School Graduation Exam



### **Alabama High School Diploma with Career/Technical Endorsement (AHSD/CTE)**

Earn 24 Required Credits  
Including: 3 credits Career/Technical Education (sequenced program of courses)

Assessment Requirement:  
PASS the Alabama High School Graduation Exam



### **Alabama High School Diploma with Credit Based Endorsement (AHSD/CBE)**

### **Available for general education students and students with disabilities as defined by IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**

Earn 24 Required Credits  
Including: One Career/Technical Education(CTE) credit  
Assessment Requirement:

PASS three of the five parts of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (must pass reading and math , unless disability exemption applies)

(LOCAL EDUCATION AGENICIES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OFFER EITHER OF THE ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS WITH CAREER/TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENTS)



# Alabama High School Diploma/Exit Options

Revised May, 2008

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**Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement(AHSD/AAE)**

English Language Arts	Credits	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
English 9	1	
English 10	1	
English 11	1	
English 12	1	
Mathematics	4	
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
Algebra I	1	
Geometry	1	
Algebra II with Trigonometry	1	
One additional mathematics credit (as defined in course of study)	1	
Science	4	
Two credits to include the equivalent of:		
Biology	1	
A physical science (as defined in course of study)	1	
Two additional science credits (as defined in the course of study)	2	
Social Studies*	4	
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
Grade 9 Social Studies	1	
Grade 10 Social Studies	1	
Grade 11 Social Studies	1	
Grade 12 Social Studies	1	
Physical Education	1	
Health Education	0.5	
Arts Education	0.5	
Computer Applications**	0.5	
Foreign Language ***	2	
Electives	3.5	
<b><u>TOTAL CREDITS</u></b>		<b><u>24</u></b>

Assessment Requirement:  
 PASS the Alabama High School Graduation Exam  
 \*All four required credits in Social Studies shall comply with the Alabama Course of Study.



\*\*May be waived if competencies outlined in the computer course are demonstrated to qualified staff.  
 \*\*\*Students earning the diploma with the advanced academic endorsement shall successfully complete two credits in the same foreign language.  
 Effective with the ninth grade class of 2009-2010.

**Additional Credit Information**

**Embedded Credit-** Academic credit may be awarded upon completion of qualifying career/technical programs. The State Superintendent of Education shall determine eligibility of career/technical programs that qualify for award of embedded credit.

A total of two embedded credits may be earned by a completer of a career/technical program, one in mathematics and one in science.

**Distance Learning-** Effective for students entering the ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year. Alabama students will be required to complete one on-line/technology enhanced course prior to graduation. Exceptions through Individualized Education Program will be allowed.



**Alabama Occupational Diploma (AOD)\*\*\*\*\***  
 (Available to Students with Disabilities as Defined by IDEA and Certain General Education Students)

English Language Arts*	Credits	4
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
English I	1	
English II	1	
English III	1	
English IV	1	
Mathematics*	4	
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
Math I	1	
Math II	1	
Math III	1	
Math IV	1	
Science*	4	
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
Science I	1	
Science II	1	
Science III	1	
Science IV	1	
Social Studies*	4	
Four credits to include the equivalent of:		
Social Studies I	1	
Social Studies II	1	
Social Studies III	1	
Social Studies IV	1	
Career/Technical Education	2	
Coordinated Studies or Transition Elective	1	
Cooperative Career/Technical Education	1	
Physical Education	1	
Health Education	0.5	
Arts Education	0.5	
Electives	2	
<b><u>TOTAL CREDITS</u></b>		<b><u>24</u></b>

Assessment Requirement:  
 ATTEMPT the Alabama High School Graduation Exam in the Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 \*All AOD credits shall comply with the current curriculum guides designated for AOD implementation



**Graduation Certificate (CERTIFICATE)\*\*\*\*\***  
 (Only Available to Students with Disabilities as Defined by IDEA)

Earn 24 Required Credits or  
 Pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam or  
 Complete Individualized Education Program (IEP)

\*\*\*\*\*Students with disabilities who graduate with the AOD or the CERTIFICATE may continue to work toward the Alabama High School Diploma to age 21 with IDEA services.

**PLEASE NOTE: Local Education Agencies May Add Additional Credits or Requirements.**