How can I prepare for this test?

Keep up with your class work! Use the tutoring program at your school if you are having trouble with a subject area. Take the math or literacy strategies classes at your school if you need special help. Participate in any practice tests your school offers. Join a study group. Rest up, eat well, do your best and take it seriously.

What score do I need to pass?

For the New Mexico High School Diploma students must meet cut scores for High School Graduation Assessment on the 11th grade SBA.

More information about High School course work and exit exam requirements can be found:

www.ped.state.nm.us/GradReqs

Contact
Research, Deployment and Accountability (RDA)
at (505) 872-6870 or
Christoph Brunder,
State Testing Manager at
(505) 872-6830

www.aps.edu
www.rda.aps.edu
What is an exit exam?

An exit exam is a comprehensive test students in New Mexico must pass in order to receive a high school diploma. For the 2011-2012 school year, the state-mandated Standards Based Assessment will also serve as the New Mexico high school exit exam for students who are juniors for the first time this year.

Is the class of 2012 the first to take an exit exam?

No. The SBA replaces the New Mexico High School Competency Exam that had been the state exit exam since 1986. Students used to take the test in their sophomore year. The graduating class of 2011 was the last class to take the New Mexico High School Competency Exam.

When will the new exit exam be administered?

The exit exam will be taken by APS juniors March 27-29. While juniors are taking the test, freshmen, sophomores and seniors will not have classes. Student-led parent/teacher conferences for all students will take place on those three days. Classes at all APS high schools will resume Friday, March 30th.

What subjects does the test cover?

The exit exam, which is aligned with New Mexico Content Standards for grades 9-12, will test students in reading, mathematics, and science.

What if I don’t pass all or part of the test?

Students will have three opportunities to take and pass all parts of the exit exam. If students reach the end of their senior year and have not passed all sections of the test, they may opt to obtain a high school certificate of completion and return the next year to re-take the failed portions. Students may continue this for up to five years after their graduation date.

When will scores be available?

Scores will be available in July 2012. For fall retakes, the scores will be available by December 2012. For spring retakes scores will be available in time for graduation in May 2013.

What is the Alternative Demonstration of Competency?

The New Mexico Public Education Department is developing guidelines for students who don’t pass the exit exam to use an Alternative Demonstration of Competency. A student must take the SBA at least once before using the Alternative Demonstration of Competency. The state is still developing requirements for this alternative assessment.

Is this exam available in English only?

Four versions of the exit exam will be available. Students may take the test in English, Spanish, Braille and Large Print. Allowable accommodations will also be provided for students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

What if I already took the old exit exam but didn’t pass all the subtests?

The old high school exit exam, the New Mexico High School Competency Exam, was last administered to grade 10 students in spring 2009. Any student who has already taken this test but not passed all content areas will continue to take one or more of the subtests. Students who leave high school without a diploma will be able to retake the NMHSCE for five years after leaving high school.