

Graduation FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Chartered Nonpublic Schools

1. What is a chartered nonpublic school?

A chartered nonpublic school is a private school that adheres to the Operating Standards for Ohio Schools and is officially chartered by the State Board of Education.

2. What is an ISACS-accredited chartered nonpublic school?

ISACS stands for the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. ISACS is a nonprofit organization of private schools that offers numerous services to its members, including accreditation. An ISACS-accredited chartered nonpublic school is a private school that is both chartered by the State Board of Education and accredited by ISACS.

3. My child attends a private school. How do I know if it is accredited by ISACS?

A list of ISACS-accredited chartered nonpublic schools in Ohio may be found [here](#).

Alternative Tests

4. Which private schools are allowed to administer an alternative test for graduation?

All chartered nonpublic high schools that are not accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States may administer an alternative test to their students.

5. When can private schools begin administering an alternative test?

Eligible private schools can administer an alternative test beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

6. How do private schools choose an alternative test?

Private schools must select from a list of alternative tests approved by the Ohio Department of Education. When a list of approved tests has been compiled, it will be posted on the website.

7. When will a list of approved alternative tests be available?

The Ohio Department of Education is currently in the process of reviewing options for alternative tests that meet the requirements outlined in law. When the review process is complete, a list of approved tests will be posted on the website.

8. What if the list of approved alternative tests is not available in time to order tests for the 2015-2016 school year?

While every effort is being made to approve alternative tests so that private schools may administer them in the 2015-2016 school year, it is not certain when the list of approved tests will be available. If a private school purchases an alternative test prior to publication of the list, there is no guarantee that the school's choice will appear on the final list. In that case, the chosen test will not qualify as a valid alternative test and cannot be used for graduation.

9. Will the approved alternative tests include accommodations for students who might need them, such as students with disabilities or English language learners?

It is the responsibility of each private school to select an alternative assessment from the approved list that meets the needs of the school's students. The school should consult with the test vendor about available accommodations.

10. What is the passing score on an alternative test?

The Ohio Department of Education sets the passing score for each alternative test it approves.

11. How do I know if my child's private school has chosen to give an alternative test?

You should ask school administrators if the school is giving an alternative test.

Scholarship Students

12. If a high school student is attending a private school with a state scholarship (voucher), what tests does the state require the school to administer to the student?

The tests the school must give depend on what graduating class the student is in and whether the school is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. The following table shows the required tests for scholarship students.

State-Required Test Administration for Scholarship Students		
Class of	Students Attending High Schools Accredited by ISACS	Students Attending High Schools <u>Not</u> Accredited by ISACS
2016 and 2017	Ohio Graduation Tests	Ohio Graduation Tests
2018 and later	Both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT;ANDThe seven end-of-course exams.	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT, and the seven end-of-course exams; OROnly a national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT, if the school publishes aggregate test results for the class; ORAn alternative test, if the school elects to administer such a test.

13. Are the state testing requirements for scholarship students different than for other students in the same school?

In private schools accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States, only scholarship students are tested. In private schools not accredited by ISACS, all students take the same tests.

14. What are the graduation requirements for a scholarship student?

The graduation requirements for a scholarship student depend on what graduating class the student is in and whether the student's school is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. The following table shows the graduation requirements for scholarship students.

Graduation Requirements for Scholarship Students		
Class of	Students Attending High Schools Accredited by ISACS	Students Attending High Schools <u>Not</u> Accredited by ISACS
2016 and 2017	In addition to meeting the curriculum requirements of the student's high school, complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests; ORAccumulate graduation points based on scores on the seven end-of-course exams; OREarn a remediation-free score on a national college admissions	In addition to meeting the curriculum requirements of the student's high school, complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests; ORAccumulate graduation points based on scores on the seven end-of-course exams; OREarn a remediation-free score on a national college admissions

	test, such as the ACT or SAT; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn an approved industry-recognized credential and achieve a workforce readiness score on the WorkKeys job skills test; OR • Combine passage of some of the OGT with requirements from another pathway described above in accordance with State Board of Education rules. 	test, such as the ACT or SAT; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn an approved industry-recognized credential and achieve a workforce readiness score on the WorkKeys job skills test; OR • Earn a passing score on an alternative test, if the school elects to administer such a test; OR • Combine passage of some of the OGT with requirements from another pathway described above in accordance with State Board of Education rules.
2018 and later	In addition to meeting the curriculum requirements of the student's high school, complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulate graduation points based on scores on the seven end-of-course exams; OR • Earn a remediation-free score on a national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT; OR • Earn an approved industry-recognized credential and achieve a workforce readiness score on the WorkKeys job skills test. 	In addition to meeting the curriculum requirements of the student's high school, complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulate graduation points based on scores on the seven end-of-course exams; OR • Earn a remediation-free score on a national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT; OR • Earn an approved industry-recognized credential and achieve a workforce readiness score on the WorkKeys job skills test; OR • Earn a passing score on an alternative test, if the school elects to administer such a test.

Graduation Requirements for Classes of 2016 and 2017

15. Are students in the classes of 2016 and 2017 still required to take the OGT?

Yes. The only exception is students who are attending chartered nonpublic schools that are accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and who are not receiving a state scholarship (voucher). Those students are no longer required to take the Ohio Graduation Tests.

16. The students who are no longer required to take the OGT already took the tests in 10th grade. Do they need to retake any tests they failed?

No. Students who are attending chartered nonpublic schools that are accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and who are not receiving a state scholarship (voucher) are not required to take the OGT, and passing the OGT is no longer a requirement for those students to graduate. Therefore, if such a student failed a section of the OGT in 10th grade, he/she does not need to retake the test.

17. What new graduation pathways are available to students in the classes of 2016 and 2017?

Students can still earn a high school diploma by passing the Ohio Graduation Tests. However, students who have not passed all five sections of the OGT now have the following additional options for meeting the testing requirement for graduation:

- Accumulate graduation points based on scores on the seven end-of-course exams; **OR**
- Earn a remediation-free score on a national college admissions test, such as the ACT or SAT; **OR**
- Earn an approved industry-recognized credential and achieve a workforce readiness score on the WorkKeys job skills test; **OR**
- Earn a passing score on an alternative test, if the chartered nonpublic school is not accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States and the school elects to administer such a test; **OR**
- Combine passage of some of the OGT with requirements from another pathway described above in accordance with State Board of Education rules.

18. How does a student satisfy the combined pathway?

The State Board of Education must adopt rules for the combined pathway by Dec. 31, 2015.

19. Will the state pay for a student in the class of 2016 or 2017 to take the ACT or SAT?

No. The cost of taking the ACT or SAT will be covered for one administration beginning with students in the class of 2018. If a student in the class of 2016 or 2017 wishes to take the ACT or SAT, the student is responsible for the cost of the assessment.

20. If a student has passed the OGT, does the student need to take end-of-course exams or a college admissions test?

No. Passing the OGT satisfies the testing requirement for graduation. The student does not need to take any other tests to graduate.

21. Can a student who passed four sections of the OGT still qualify for a diploma by meeting the alternative graduation requirements?

Yes. A student who fails only one section of the OGT may still qualify for graduation if the student:

- Failed that section of the OGT by ten points or less;
- Has a 97 percent attendance rate in each of the last four years, excluding excused absences;
- Has not been expelled in the last four years;
- Has a GPA of at least 2.5 out of 4.0, or its equivalent, in the subject area of the failed section of the OGT;
- Has completed the high school curriculum;
- Has taken advantage of any intervention programs provided by the school in the subject area of the failed section of the OGT and has a 97 percent attendance rate, excluding excused absences, in programs offered outside of regular school time or has received comparable intervention services from another source; **AND**
- Has a letter recommending graduation from each of the student's high school teachers in the subject area of the failed section of the OGT and from the student's principal.

22. Are students in the classes of 2016 and 2017 required to take the American history and American government end-of-course exams?

No. Students in the classes of 2016 and 2017 are not required to take the end-of-course exams, unless they choose to accumulate graduation points on the exams as a pathway to graduation.