

Chartered Nonpublic School Graduation FAQ

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 chartered nonpublic schools are allowed to administer an alternative test for graduation?

All chartered nonpublic high schools may administer an alternative test to their students.

5. Who pays for an alternative test?

Chartered nonpublic schools that choose to give an alternative test must pay for the test.

6. When can schools begin administering an alternative test?

Chartered nonpublic schools can administer an alternative test beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

7. How do schools choose an alternative test?

Chartered nonpublic schools must select from a list of alternative tests approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The approved tests are available [here](#).

8. Do 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 school to select an alternative test from the approved list that meets the needs of the school's students. The school should consult with the test vendor about available accommodations.

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

The Ohio Department of Education approved the performance level scores submitted by the vendors for each of the approved alternative tests. Performance level scores can be found [here](#).

10. How do I know if my child’s school has chosen to give an alternative test?

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

Scholarship Students

11. If a high school student is attending a chartered nonpublic 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
2017	Ohio Graduation Tests	Ohio Graduation Tests
2018 and later	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A national college admissions test (the ACT or SAT) and the seven end-of-course exams; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">An alternative test, if the school elects to administer such a test.	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A national college admissions test (the ACT or SAT) and the seven end-of-course exams; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">Only a national college admissions test (the ACT or SAT), if the school publishes aggregate test results for the class on the school’s website; ORAn alternative test, if the school elects to administer such a test.

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

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

13. 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. The requirements are the same for all scholarship students, regardless of the school's accreditation status. The following table shows the graduation requirements for scholarship students by class.

Graduation Requirements for Scholarship Students	
Class of 2017	Class of 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">• Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests; OR• 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 (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; OR• Combine passage of some of the OGT with requirements from another pathway described above in accordance with State Board of Education rule.	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 (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 Class of 2017

14. Are students in the class of 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.

15. 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.

16. What new graduation pathways are available to students in the class of 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 (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 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 rule.

17. How does a student satisfy the combined pathway?

The State Board of Education adopted a rule describing how a student may graduate by completing some areas of the OGT and requirements from another graduation pathway. Additional information can be found [here](#).

18. Will the state pay for a student in the class of 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 2017 wishes to take the ACT or SAT, the student is responsible for the cost of the assessment.

19. 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.

20. Can a student who passed four sections of the OGT still qualify for a diploma by meeting the Alternative Pathway to Graduation?

Yes. A student who fails only one section of the OGT may still qualify for graduation if the student meets the criteria for the Alternative Pathway. Information on the Alternative Pathway is available [here](#).

21. Are students in the class of 2017 required to take the American history and American government end-of-course exams?

No. Private school students in the class of 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.

ACT or SAT

22. Are chartered nonpublic schools required to participate in the state-funded administration of the ACT or SAT?

Each chartered nonpublic school must give the ACT or SAT to all its juniors during the state-funded administration, unless the school chooses to give an alternative test instead. The only exception is that chartered nonpublic schools accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States are required to give the state-funded ACT or SAT only to students who are receiving a state scholarship (voucher).

23. How does a school register for the state-funded administration of the ACT or SAT?

A chartered nonpublic school that participates in the state-funded administration of the ACT or SAT must follow the same procedures as a school district, which include completing an ODE survey indicating the test the school has chosen to give and registering with the appropriate test vendor to become a testing site.

24. Who pays for the ACT or SAT?

The state will pay for the ACT or SAT for all juniors attending chartered nonpublic schools that are not accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. In the case of juniors attending chartered nonpublic schools that are accredited by ISACS, the state will only pay for the test for students with a state scholarship (voucher).

25. If a school gives an alternative test for graduation, may it also participate in the state-funded administration of the ACT or SAT?

Yes. The state would pay for the ACT or SAT for eligible students and the school would pay for the alternative test.

26. May a school meet testing requirements by giving only the ACT or SAT?

Yes. A school that is not accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States may administer just the ACT or SAT, and not the end-of-course exams, if the school publishes the aggregate test results for each graduating class on its website. In posting the results, the school must include overall composite scores, mean scores, 25th percentile scores, and 75th percentile scores for each subject area.

End-Of-Course Exams

27. How do students who were exempt from state end-of-course exams for the 2014-2015 school year acquire graduation points in the exam subjects?

State law exempted non-scholarship students in chartered nonpublic schools from taking end-of-course exams in the 2014-2015 school year. Those students may use their grade for the course for which an end-of-course exam was prescribed for graduation points, using the conversion chart below.

Course Grade	Ohio Graduation Points
A	5
B	4
C Earned Credit or Passed Course	3
D	2
Not applicable	1

28. May students retake an end-of-course exam?

Yes. Students may retake any state end-of-course exam throughout their academic careers during any given administration period that the state offers. A student will use the highest score on an end-of-course exam for meeting graduation requirements.