



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent
of Education

July 2012

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

On September 10, 2009, the State Board of Education voted unanimously on a resolution to phase out the use of the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam* (AHSGE) as a graduation requirement. The AHSGE will be replaced with end-of-course tests aligned with instructional content to ensure that our graduates are prepared for the workforce, technical school, and two- and four-year colleges.

This new concept goes into effect in the upcoming 2012-2013 school year and applies to first-time ninth graders of 2011-2012. This will result in your student **NOT** being required to take or pass the AHSGE as a graduation requirement. With this change, your school's faculty and administration can now fully devote their focus to preparing their students for college and career readiness.

In future years, though not for the 2012-2013 administration, these new end-of-course tests will be used as a percentage of the student's grade. We are excited about this new direction of returning to a focus of assessment being used to inform instruction and student learning for the students we serve across the state of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

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