

HB – 91 Georgia High School Graduation Tests Eliminated

On March 30, 2015, Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 91 into law. This law provides that students no longer be required to earn a passing score on any graduation tests to earn a high school diploma. The law contains additional details and requirements regarding the ability of students that are no longer enrolled to petition a local school board of education for a diploma.

- The law includes that all subjects, forms and versions of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies), Georgia High School Writing Test, and Basic Skills Tests (Reading, Mathematics, and Writing) no longer be required as a graduation requirement.
- The law covers all graduation tests, beginning with the Basic Skills Test, which were administered to students who enrolled for the first time in grade 9 on or after July 1, 1981.
- Individuals who are no longer enrolled in a public school who were denied a high school diploma solely for not achieving a passing score on any of the graduation tests and met all other state requirements may submit a petition to the Douglas County School System.
- If the petitioning individual met all of the graduation requirements for the expected year of graduation, then a diploma will be awarded.
- Individuals that received a GED (General Educational Development) certificate solely for failing to achieve a passing score on the graduation tests may also petition for a diploma pending they met all state graduation requirements.
- Individuals that received a special education diploma or certificate solely because he or she had not passed one or more sections of the graduation tests may also petition for a diploma pending they met all state graduation requirements.
- The Petition Form can be accessed on the system website at www.douglas.k12.ga.us. Submit the completed, signed form with a copy of your government issued photo identification by U.S. Mail or in person to

the high school where you would have graduated. If submitting by U.S. Mail, please write **Attention Counselor** under the name of the high school.

Alexander High School
6500 Alexander Parkway
Douglasville, GA 30135

Chapel Hill High School
4899 Chapel High Road
Douglasville, GA 30135

Douglas County High School
8705 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, GA 30134

Lithia Springs High School
2520 East County Line Road
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

New Manchester High School
4925 Highway 92/166
Douglasville, GA 30135

- Petition must be complete with a photo copy of your government issued identification upon submission.
- There is no fee to update your transcript to reflect your updated graduation status pending you meet all state graduation requirements.
- Updated transcripts will be ready in approximately 30 days from the petitioning date for a \$3 fee cash or money order only at:
Douglas County Board of Education Annex
4841 Bill Arp Road, Highway 5
Douglasville, GA 30135
- If you are interested in purchasing a diploma, provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details will be mailed to you on how to obtain a diploma.