

TAC §74.1027: Alternate Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to graduate by District Decision?

A school district or open-enrollment charter school may award a high school diploma to an individual who meets **all** of the following:

- Entered grade 9 before the 2011–2012 school year
- Completed the curriculum requirements for high school graduation applicable at the time the individual entered grade 9
- Has not performed satisfactorily on a required assessment
- Has been administered the required assessment or an approved alternate assessment at least three times

2. What are the alternative requirements for graduation?

A student may meet the alternative requirements for graduation through any of the following:

- Meeting the performance standard on an alternate assessment as specified in [TAC §101.4003](#)
- Performing satisfactorily on the subject-area test of a state-approved [high school equivalency examination](#) in accordance with TAC §89.43(a)(4)
- Attainment of a TEA-approved industry-recognized postsecondary license or certification
- Active-duty service in the armed forces or an honorable or general discharge from the armed forces
- Successful completion of college-level coursework resulting in college credit
- Additional alternative requirements developed by the district and approved by the school district board of trustees

3. Where can the performance standards for alternate assessments be found?

Performance standards for alternate assessments are linked to in [TAC §101.4003](#).

4. Where can the list of TEA-approved licensures and certifications be found?

The industry-based certifications that have been approved for use in public school accountability will also be used for the purpose of alternate graduation requirements. The current list is linked to the [TEA Career and Technical Education](#) webpage.

5. Where can the credit requirements for these former students be found?

The TEA website has graduation requirements going back to the 2001-2002 school year: <https://tea.texas.gov/graduation.aspx>. Graduation requirements prior to the 2001-2002 school year can be requested by email to: curriculum@tea.texas.gov. Note that graduation requirements for an individual are tied to the year that the individual was first enrolled in the ninth grade.

6. What options are available to former students who did not take a required assessment at least three times?

Individuals who do not meet the eligibility requirements in TAC §74.1027 can still meet their assessment requirements through an alternate assessment as specified in [TAC §101.4003](#). In addition, each attempt at one of the approved alternate assessments would count toward the eligibility requirements in TAC §74.1027.

7. Are districts required to develop their own additional alternate requirements?

No. With approval of the district board of trustees, a school district **may** develop local alternative requirements if the requirements would allow an individual to demonstrate proficiency in the content related to the assessment on which the student did not perform satisfactorily. Districts are not required to do so, however. If a district does not adopt a local policy, the alternate requirements in TAC §74.1027 would still be in effect and available to qualifying individuals.

8. How many college credits must a former student have completed to qualify for the diploma? Are the credits required to be in the same subject area as that which the student failed to meet the assessment requirement?

TAC §74.1027 only requires that the individual “has successfully completed college-level coursework and earned college credit.” It does not specify a minimum number of credits nor the subject area in which those credits are earned.

9. What date should a diploma issued under TAC §74.1027 reflect?

The diploma should reflect the date that the alternate requirements were completed, which would be the current date.