



Requirements for a Standard Diploma

In addition to earning a passing score on all portions of the HSPE, to receive a standard high school diploma, all students must earn a minimum of 22.5 credits.

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in Math
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in American Government
- 1 credit in Arts & Humanities
- 1 credit in American History
- 2 credits in PE
- ½ credit in Health education
- ½ credit in Computers

All remaining credits are elective and therefore not specified per content area.

Districts may add specific requirements for graduation above and beyond state minimum requirements.

For additional resources on Nevada's graduation requirements please visit: http://www.doe.nv.gov/Resources_GradRequirements.htm.

Assessments, Program Accountability & Curriculum
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2011 - 2012 Nevada High School Proficiency Examination Program

Reading, Mathematics,
Science, and Writing



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All public school students in grades 3 through 8 and in high school must participate in the Nevada Proficiency Examination Program (NPEP). Students can participate in grade-appropriate testing in one of three ways:

1. participation in the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) or High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE),
2. participation in the CRT/HSPE with appropriate accommodations, or
3. participation in the Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA).

The Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) is aligned to Nevada State Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The HSPE contains sections for reading, mathematics, science, and writing. **Students must achieve a proficiency level of *Meets Standard* or *Exceeds Standard* in order to pass each portion of the exam.** Additional information on proficiency levels, as well as state content standards, can be found on the Nevada Department of Education website: www.doe.nv.gov. **The following achievement level descriptors are not inclusive of the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) on the HSPE.**

Meets Standard on the HSPE

Students at the *Meets Standard level in Reading* use skills and strategies to comprehend text. Students working at this achievement level exhibit many and/or most of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Explain the relationship among elements of plot and/or settings.
- Explain how changing the point of view impacts elements of plot.
- Explain the author's use of language, syntax, and stylistic devices.
- Explain the author's use of irony.
- Analyze the logic and/or support of an author's argument, viewpoint, and/or perspective.

Students at the *Meets Standard level in Mathematics* demonstrate the application and use of models and tools to solve mathematical and practical situations. Students working at this achievement level exhibit many and/or most of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Estimate values of radical and exponential expressions and/or perform scalar multiplication on matrices.
- Solve problems involving functions.
- Interpret consumer data.
- Use various statistical measures to analyze data, make inferences, and/or draw conclusions.

Students at the *Meets Standard level in Science* demonstrate a basic understanding of grade-level science content and abilities to use science process skills to conduct investigations. Students working at this level exhibit many and/or most of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Design experiments with given variables.
- Develop and use simple models to make predictions.
- Apply laws of motion to systems of objects.
- Describe energy flow and transformation in living and nonliving systems.
- Identify structures and functions of components of a cell system.
- Identify how changes in greenhouse gases influence weather and climate.

Students at the *Meets Standard level in Writing* use process skills and strategies to communicate a response to a given prompt. Students working at this achievement level exhibit many and/or most of the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Write multiple-paragraph expository and persuasive essays.
- Focus and develop ideas with detail.
- Defend and/or persuade with support and clarity, using relevant evidence.
- Organize ideas coherently.
- Engage the audience through word choice.
- Use varied sentence structures that contribute to style.
- Apply standard English grammar/usage and mechanics.

Administration of the HSPE

The reading, mathematics, and science portions of the HSPE are administered for the first time in the spring of the student's 10th-grade year. The writing portion of the examination is administered for the first time in the fall semester of the student's 11th-grade year.

Students may retake these tests multiple times. Prior to the third and any subsequent attempts, students must receive remedial study and/or be enrolled in an approved course of study with the intent of completing requirements for a high school diploma. (See NAC 389.057 and 389.661.)

Information regarding the Alternative to the HSPE in Science and the Alternative to the HSPE in Writing can be found at www.doe.nv.gov.

2011 - 2012

HSPE

Testing Dates

11th/12th/Adult - Reading, Math & Science
October 31 - November 4, 2011

11th/12th/Adult - Writing
November 2, 2011

10th/11th/12th/Adult - Reading, Math & Science
March 5 - 9, 2012

11th/12th/Adult - Writing
March 7, 2012

12th/Adult - Reading, Math & Science
April 30 - May 2, 2012

12th/Adult - Writing
May 2, 2012

12th/Adult - Reading, Math & Science
July 9 - 13, 2012

12th/Adult - Writing
July 11, 2012

In order to receive a standard high school diploma, students must pass all portions of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination and meet all other district and state requirements.