

## **Attention Former Pelham City Schools Students**

On March 30, 2015, Governor Nathan Deal signed into law House Bill 91. House Bill 91 retroactively eliminates the Georgia High School Graduation Test as a requirement for students who took the test between 1994 (when the test was established) and the present. State Board Rule in 2011 eliminated the test as a requirement for graduation, but that elimination did not extend to students who had already taken the test. House Bill 91 extends back to all graduation tests, beginning with the Basic Skills Test which was administered to students who enrolled for the first time in grade 9 during the 1981-1982 school year.

House Bill 91 only affects those persons who did not earn a high school diploma **SOLELY** for the reason of being unable to pass the GHSGT, the GHSWT, or its predecessor(s). If you did not get a diploma due to failure to meet specific high school course unit requirements, this law does not apply to you. Linked here are a copy of [House Bill 91](#), the House Bill 91 Petition Form, and the [House Bill 91 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#).

### **Pelham City Schools' Procedures for Submitting a Petition for Graduation O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1**

An individual no longer enrolled in a Georgia public school and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma in this state or was denied graduation solely for failing to achieve a passing score on one or more portions of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests or its predecessor or the Georgia High School Writing Test or its predecessor may petition the local board of education in which he or she was last enrolled to determine the Student's eligibility to receive a high school diploma pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1 based on the graduation requirements in effect when the Student first entered ninth grade.

1. Individual completes the online petitioner form (submitted to Brenda Glass).
2. The completed petitioner form is reviewed and transcript/educational records are pulled. Please allow 7-10 days for petitions to be processed.
3. Record(s) are reviewed to determine if the petitioner has met all graduation requirements. Please allow up to 30 days from the date of petition for review of records to be completed.
4. Upon completion of review of records, petitioner will be notified by phone, email, or mail regarding their eligibility for graduation in accordance with HB91.
5. If petitioner is eligible for graduation in accordance with HB91, petitioner will receive an updated official transcript indicating graduation, free of charge.
6. If petitioner is eligible for graduation in accordance with HB91, petitioner will have the option to purchase a diploma through Jostens by submitting a payment of \$35 (amount effective through March 29, 2016, at which time it may increase) to the Pelham Board of Education. Diplomas will begin being printed in June 2015 and will take 4-6 weeks for delivery. More information will be provided when notified of eligibility.