

**Fort Mill School District**  
**Act 155 and 207 FAQs**

**When is the High School Exit Exam eliminated as a requirement for high school graduation?**

The exit exam is eliminated as a graduation requirement to receive a South Carolina High School Diploma beginning with the graduating class of 2015.

**If I didn't pass the exit exam, can I still receive a South Carolina High School Diploma?**

Yes, persons no longer enrolled in a public school that were denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements may petition their local school board to determine eligibility to receive a high school diploma under Act 155.

**When did the exit exam requirement for high school graduation apply?**

There are exit exam requirements for graduation going back to the graduating class of 1990. Persons who did not meet the exit exam requirements for the Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP) or the exit exam requirements under the current High School Assessment Program (HSAP) may now petition their local school board to receive a South Carolina High School Diploma.

**What if I've moved from the school district where I went to high school?**

You should still petition the school board of the district where you attended high school.

**What name will be used for the diploma?**

Under current diploma guidelines, the name as it appears on the birth certificate will be used.

**What requirements must be met for me to receive a diploma under Act 155?**

You must have met all of the graduation requirements, except for passing the exit exam, for the year in which your class graduated.

**How will the school boards know what requirements were in place at the time I went to high school?**

The basic graduation requirements since 1990, including the number and types of credits, have been sent to all school districts by the South Carolina Department of Education.

**Who will determine when all of the graduation requirements have been met?**

The academic record of the student submitting the petition will be reviewed by a high school counselor and the Fort Mill School Board. If qualifications are met, the school board will submit the request to the state. The South Carolina Department of Education orders the diploma.

**Is there a deadline for submitting a petition to the Fort Mill School District?**

No, there is not a deadline due to Act 207.

**How long will it take for me to receive a diploma once it's ordered?**

The South Carolina Department of Education will work with the diploma printer to process the orders. It may take at least three to four weeks to complete. The diplomas will be sent to the school district for distribution to the petitioners.

**Will diplomas granted under Act 155 affect graduation rates as reported for state and federal accountability?**

No, the act specifically states that persons receiving diplomas under Act 155 will not be counted as graduates for determining graduation rates of schools and districts. 2014 students who have not passed HSAP during the school year but pass HSAP in the summer of 2014 will count for a high school's 2014 graduation rate.

**What options are available to students in the graduating class of 2014?**

Students in the graduating class of 2014 who have completed the required credits to graduate but have not passed the exit exam may take the summer HSAP. If they pass, these students receive a diploma under the current 2013-14 requirements. If these students do not pass or take the summer exit exam, they may petition for a diploma under Act 155 as soon as they are no longer enrolled in public school.

**Will student transcripts be adjusted?**

An official transcript will not be adjusted, but separate documentation should be attached to the transcript by the high school or district, indicating that the student received a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155.

Transcripts for students in the class of 2014 who received certificates during the May/June graduation, will reflect certificate, not diploma. If a student passes the summer HSAP, another transcript would be printed to reflect the diploma status. If the student did not take or pass the summer 2014 HSAP and petitioned for a diploma, the transcript would still indicate "certificate" and the school or district should provide documentation that the student received a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155.

**What if I received a certificate but will be applying for scholarships?**

As in the question above, an official transcript would reflect “certificate” but separate documentation could be added by the school or district with the transcript to indicate the student is eligible for a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155 of 2014.

**How will students with IEPs be affected?**

The Office of Special Education has outlined guidance regarding special education students. Please refer any questions to the Office of Special Education at (803) 734-8224.

**How will the public be alerted to the availability of receiving high school diplomas through Act 155?**

The South Carolina Department of Education is placing advertisements in all major newspapers across the state. Local school districts will also be establishing and communicating their procedures for receiving petitions.

**Are districts required to search their records for all students who may not have passed the exit exam?**

No. Individuals must petition their local school board using procedures established by the districts.