

# A Student Guide

## Testing Requirements for High School Graduation

### Dear Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Student ~

One of the things you must do to get a high school diploma is pass a series of tests.

#### **If you plan to graduate in 2004 or earlier**

If you are scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2004 or earlier, you are required to pass the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). The subject areas tested are reading, writing, and mathematics. Students will take the exit-level TAAS in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Another way to satisfy the testing requirement for a diploma is to pass three end-of-course tests. A student must pass the end-of-course tests in Algebra I, English II and *either* Biology or U.S. History.

If you do not pass one or more parts of the exit-level TAAS, you can take that part again whenever it is given. The exit-level TAAS is given in the spring, summer, and fall of each school year.

#### **If you plan to graduate in 2005 or later**

- If you will be in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the spring of 2004 or later and you plan to graduate in the spring of 2005 or later, you will be required to pass the English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies sections of a new exit-level TAKS test. The first time you can take this test is in the spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. If you don't pass one or more parts of this test the first time you try, you can take that part again whenever it is given.

The 11<sup>th</sup>-grade exit-level TAKS test is designed to measure academic skills, higher-order thinking skills, and problem solving in the following subjects:

- ❖ **English language arts**, including at least English III and writing;
- ❖ **Mathematics**, including at least Algebra I and Geometry;
- ❖ **Social studies**, including early American history, United States history, and world history; and
- ❖ **Science**, including at least Biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry.

**NOTE:** Completing the graduation testing requirement is just one of the things you'll need to do to get your diploma. Be sure to check with your school counselor for information about your other graduation requirements. Students who are not successful on the tenth-grade TAKS may be required to take additional core courses to prepare them for the exit-level exam.

#### **THE LAW (Texas Education Code, Section 39.025) SAYS:**

- (a) A student may not receive a high school diploma until the student has performed satisfactorily on the secondary exit-level assessment instruments for English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science administered under Section 39.023(c). This subsection does not require a student to demonstrate readiness to enroll in an institution of higher education.
- (b) Each time a secondary exit-level assessment instrument is administered, a student who has not been given a high school diploma because of a failure to perform satisfactorily on the assessment instrument for that subject area may retake the assessment instrument.
- (c) A student who has been denied a high school diploma under Subsections (a) and (b) and who subsequently performs satisfactorily on each secondary exit-level assessment instrument shall be issued a high school diploma.