



Department of Student Assessment (DoSA)
125 S. Clark Street, 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
773/553-2430
Fax: 773/553-2421

TO: Principals; High School Counselors; PSAE Test Supervisors, Back-Up Supervisors, Test Accommodations Coordinators
FROM: Department of Student Assessment
Cc: AMPS, ONS, CAOs
RE: Clarification on Various PSAE Administration Issues and the High School Diploma Requirement
DATE: **February 4, 2010**

There have been many PSAE testing questions and misconceptions in recent weeks regarding demote divisions, grade 12 participation, evidence that fulfills the high school diploma requirement, creation of pre-ID labels, and testing exemptions, including exemptions for English Language Learners (ELLs). The attached PowerPoint has been created to address these questions and other points of confusion. It contains slides shared at the high school counselor professional development meetings on January 28-29, 2010, plus additional clarifications.

Please review this important information and share with high school counselors, appointed PSAE testing staff, and any other applicable school personnel. Upcoming deadlines are also included.

Please stress a few important points with your staff. Refer to further details in the PowerPoint regarding all of these summarized points.

- Effective the 2009-2010 school year, scores from ACT national test dates do NOT satisfy the high school diploma requirement for grade 12 students. There is an exception in 2009-2010 only for current grade 12 students graduating prior to the 2010 PSAE administration occurs.
- Grade 12 students that were not enrolled in an Illinois public school district during the 2009 PSAE administration are exempt from the high school diploma requirement (i.e. students who attended private/parochial schools, students who attended schools out of state/country, or students who were home school by their parents). At the high school counselor meetings on January 28-29, 2010, it was shared that these students would have to participate in 2010 PSAE testing to fulfill the diploma requirement. After seeking further clarification from ISBE, that information was found to be incorrect.
- ELLs that qualify for the PSAE Reading and/or Writing exemption must have a Day 1 State-Allowed Accommodation application submitted for a self-paced session in order to receive the exemption(s).
- PSAE pre-ID label creation and score reporting is based on grade level classification in IMPACT SIM, not the amount of credit bearing coursework completed or assigned homeroom.

2010 PSAE Exempt Grade 12 Students Roster

On January 22, 2010, schools were notified that a roster titled *2010 PSAE Exempt Grade 12 Students* would be uploaded the REA Principal Login site on February 5, 2010. ISBE has recently agreed to share whether any current grade 12 students new to CPS in the 2009-2010 school year have PSAE results from another Illinois public school district. To allow this new information to be included, the aforementioned roster will **not be available until February 19, 2010**. It will be posted to the PSAE tab of the REA Principal Login site.

This roster will identify any current grade 12 students that were exempt from the 2009 PSAE, had a 2009 PSAE score invalidated, or have a PSAE score record from any year at another Illinois public school district. These students have satisfied the PSAE high school diploma requirement and do not need to participate in the 2010 PSAE, even if the school receives a pre-ID label for the student. You will discard any pre-ID labels received for these students. Unfortunately, CPS does not have access to the Fall 2008 Grade 12 PSAE Retake data as previously mentioned. The rosters will therefore not include this information.

Please feel free to contact the Department of Student Assessment at 773-553-2430 with any questions.