

GEARUP SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS
at Cincinnati Public Schools

- Friday, Feb. 29**
Staff Professional Development Day
No pupils
- Monday, March 10**
Board of Education Meeting, 7 PM
2651 Burnet Ave., Auditorium.
- March 10–14**
Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)
Grades 10–12
- March 17–21**
OGT Make-up dates
- March 24–28**
Spring Recess
Schools Closed

Did You Know?

Resources are available to help you prepare for the SAT and ACT. Start online—if you don't have internet access at home, your local library does!

www.collegeboard.com
(for the SAT) and
www.actstudent.org
(for the ACT).

For additional help,
ask your school counselor or
GEARUP college access advisor.



Serving 3,800 students in
23 Cincinnati Public Schools

For more information:
phone 513-556-3611
or fax 513-556-1037

Thinking of college?

**Wondering about
how to pay for it?**

Visit the following Web sites:
www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.collegeboard.com

measure UP!

Prepare for tests!

THE OHIO GRADUATION TEST

OGT Q&A

Why do we have to take the OGT?

The graduating class of 2007 was the first class required to pass the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). The purpose of the OGT is to ensure that students who receive a high school diploma demonstrate academic achievement. In other words, it shows you have learned at least at a tenth-grade level. The final test for seniors is scheduled for March 10–14.

When do I take the OGT? What happens if I fail the first time?

The OGT is first administered in spring of the sophomore year, and is available for those who did not pass to retake in the fall and spring of their junior and senior years.

What will be on the test?

The test has five sections: reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. There are approximately 35 multiple-choice questions and up to eight short answers. Students will have up to 2½ hours on each section.

What if I complete my high school curriculum but still don't pass the OGT?

Students who complete their curriculum but do not pass the OGT will not graduate with their classmates. It is at the discretion of the school district whether students can participate in the graduation ceremony.

Students may continue to take the OGT until they pass all required sections. The first opportunity to take the test after a student's senior year is in July. Students should contact their school district well

in advance of test dates to make sure they meet all the requirements to sit for the test. Eligible students may test during any of the testing opportunities throughout the school year — July, October and March. Specific dates and information can be found at www.ode.state.oh.us.

Is the test fair?

Ohio teachers, parents, and other members of Ohio educational organizations develop the OGT. These tests are not designed to trick you or keep you from graduating. They are only meant to ensure that you are prepared for the world after high school, either in the job market or as a college student. A content advisory committee, which consists of parents and educators, determines whether the test material is fair.

Is there any way to graduate if I don't pass?

Graduating seniors may graduate and receive a diploma without passing all five sections if they meet the following criteria:

- Pass four of the five tests and have missed passing the fifth test by no more than 10 scale points.
- Have a 97 percent attendance rate all four years of high school with no expulsions.
- Have a grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 in the subject area missed, and have completed the curriculum for the subject.
- Have participated in intervention programs offered by the school with a 97 percent attendance rate in the program.
- Obtain letters of recommendation from the high school principal as well as from each teacher in the deficient subject area(s).

What about students with learning disabilities or students whose first language isn't English?

Students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) excuses them from the consequence of having to pass the OGT may be awarded a diploma. However, Federal law requires every student to take the OGT or an alternate assessment. Students who speak English as a second language must also achieve specified scores on the OGT to receive their diploma.

How can I prepare for the OGT?

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education releases test materials used during the preceding year. The test questions, as well as the answer key, can be found at www.ode.state.oh.us. The exact same questions will not appear again, but provide the basic format of the test and allow students the opportunity to see what type of problems they will see on the test. You can also take practice tests on the Internet. See your GEARUP college access advisor for more information.



Don't give up on your dreams

just because you haven't yet earned a high school diploma.

A GED can allow you to pursue many of the same dreams! If you're under 19 years old, but at least 16, here's what you'll need to get started:

- Application/age waiver filled out and notarized. If you're under 18 years old, you'll also need a parent/guardian signature on your application.
- A fee waiver, earned by taking and passing a practice test given by a recognized GED training center, or by an adult education center OR a \$55 money order or certified check made payable to Ohio Testing Services.
- A Counselor's Recommendation Form from the head counselor of the last high school you attended.
- A copy of the transcript from the last school you attended.
- A copy of the withdrawal from the last school you attended.

Mail the above five documents to test administrator Cincinnati Public Schools, Test Administrator Office, 2651 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. If approved, these documents will be sent to the state GED office in Columbus, and your authorization will be posted on the state's Web site 7-10 days after it is received and processed.

This authorization will remain valid for 120 days after it's posted, and you must call a testing center during that period to make an appointment.

If you are over 19 years old, you may take your GED test at Cincinnati State GED Testing Center (513-569-1894 or 513-569-1831) or Great Oaks ABLE for the official GED practice test (513-771-8881).