

## Diploma Petition's Frequently Asked Questions:

1. ***Who is covered under the transition plan for competency and computer skills?***

The competency testing program was initiated in 1978 (for students enrolled at grade 10), effective with the graduating class of 1981. Effective with the class of 2001, the North Carolina Computer Skills Test was added as a graduation requirement under Feature C of the Quality Assurance Program. The transition plan covers *all* students that were under the competency and computer skills requirements regardless of the graduation year (i.e., the plan covers the graduating class of 1981 through the class of 2009).

2. ***How does the transition plan apply to students who are not enrolled in school? Can these test requirements be waived retroactively?***

Effective July 1, 2009, students who entered the ninth grade for the first time prior to 2006-07 and are *not currently enrolled* in a public school but have met all state and local graduation requirements except for achieving proficiency on the North Carolina Reading and/or Mathematics Competency Test(s) and/or the North Carolina Computer Skills Test(s) and/or their alternate assessment(s) are no longer required to meet the competency or computer skills standards. These students may petition their former school for a diploma. In order to receive a high school diploma, these students' school records and/or documentation must show all state and local board requirements have been met. If these students' school records and or documentation show that all state and local board requirements have been met, these students may be granted diplomas.

3. ***If a student is deceased, can his/her parents, guardians, or next of kin petition the LEA for the diploma?*** Yes. If the student's school records and/or documentation show that all state and local board requirements have been met, the parents/guardians should be awarded the student's diploma.

4. ***In order to receive a diploma, these students' school records and/or documentation must show that all state and local board requirements have been met. What are the State Board of Education policy numbers that contain the state's graduation requirements for students graduating prior to 2010?***

In order to receive a diploma, students would have to show that they met the requirements in place at the time that they entered ninth grade (i.e., except for proficiency on the Competency Reading and Mathematics Tests, the Computer Skills Test(s), and/or their corresponding alternate assessments). The state's graduation requirements are located in State Board of Education policies GCS-N-004 and GCS-N-003. In addition, a copy of the 1980-81 through 2008-09 graduation requirements is posted online at

[www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/competency/competency2](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/competency/competency2).

5. ***What other documentation will students need to present to the district or school officials when they petition for their diplomas?***

Student's identification information must be verified. Therefore, students may be asked to produce a valid picture ID, their Social Security number, and their current address and contact information.