



## Remediation and Diploma Tests: A Q&A

**Q: Did the role of remediation change when the GRAD rule became final in March 2009?**

A: A little. Under the Basic Skills Test (BST) rule, districts were expected to provide remediation to help students pass retests on the BST. Under the GRAD rule, “students must have a minimum of six weeks for remediation before the next testing opportunity.” In addition, districts must develop a remediation plan for students who don’t pass two Reading GRAD or Writing GRAD retests.

**Q: Did the role of remediation change with the Education Bill that passed in May 2009?**

A: Yes, but only for mathematics. Since state law trumps agency rule, the contents of the bill that address mathematics take precedent over what the GRAD rule says about mathematics.

**Q: What changed for mathematics?**

A: Students who do not pass the Mathematics GRAD are eligible to receive a high school diploma if they:

- complete with a passing grade all state and local coursework and credits required for graduation by the school board granting the students their diploma,
- participate in the assessment until they pass the Mathematics GRAD or participate in at least two GRAD retests, whichever comes first, and
- participate in district-prescribed academic remediation in mathematics.

**Q: Does state law tell the district what kind of remediation should be offered?**

A: No. The district decides the nature of the remediation (e.g., type or length of instruction).

**Q: Can remediation vary for each student?**

A: Yes. It makes sense that students who are not close to passing, based on their initial scores, would have more intensive remediation than students who are close to passing.

**Q: Can students who don't pass the mathematics tests (proficient on MCA, pass the GRAD component) in the spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade take the Mathematics GRAD in the summer, even if they didn't yet "participate in district-prescribed remediation"?**

A: Yes. The statute is silent on the sequence of the requirements; however, the district may establish a sequence required by its own students.

**Q: Can fee-based, private tutoring serve as a district-prescribed remediation plan?**

A: Yes, as long as the district agrees that this private tutoring is likely to be effective in remediation. This means that a parent/guardian and the school district could agree that a fee-based learning center or independent tutor will fulfill the student's remediation requirement. In doing so, any fees for such private tutoring are the obligation of the parent/guardian and not those of the school district.

**Q: Is remediation required for students who don't pass the Reading or Written Composition GRAD the first time they take it?**

A: Students must have at least six weeks for remediation before the next testing opportunity. This does not mean that remediation is required after failing the first attempt; however, it is recommended. This remediation can be provided through any variety of means, just as in the case of the mathematics remediation.

If a student has not passed one of the GRAD tests after two retests, the district must develop a remediation plan.