

# Were You Denied Graduation From High School Only Because You Did Not Pass The HS Graduation Test?

A person who is no longer enrolled in a Meriwether County School and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma from the Meriwether County Board of Education, the State of Georgia and was denied graduation solely based on failing to achieve a passing score on one or more portions of the graduation tests, may petition the Meriwether County Board of Education to receive their diploma. If you withdrew from high school prior to graduating and received a diploma from another school, you are not eligible because you already have a high school diploma. The law includes all subjects, forms and versions of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies), Georgia High School Writing Test, and Basic Skills Tests (Reading, Mathematics, and Writing). Once the petition is received, a determination will be made based on the law whether he or she is eligible to receive their high school diploma, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.1, based on the graduation requirements in effect when you first entered ninth grade. If you withdrew from high school prior to graduating and received a diploma from another school, you are not eligible because you already have a high school diploma.

The law covers ALL graduation tests, beginning with the Basic Skills Test, which was administered to students who enrolled for the first time in grade 9 on or after July 1981. This law applies to regular and special education students. There is no deadline by which a petition may be submitted.

A special education student who was previously awarded a special education diploma or a certificate of completion only because he or she had not passed one or more sections of the graduation tests can petition the Meriwether County Board of Education for their high school diploma.

If you earned a GED because you were denied graduation based solely on failing to achieve a passing score on one or more portions of the graduation tests, you are also eligible to petition the Meriwether County Board of Education for your diploma.

The petition form is available on the Meriwether County School System's website, [www.mcssga.org](http://www.mcssga.org) and will be available at the Meriwether County Board of Education's Office at 2100 Gaston St., Greenville, GA. If you are mailing the petition include a photocopy of your government ID (driver's license). Be sure to complete all the required information and mail to Superintendent of Schools, Meriwether County Board of Education, P.O. Box 70, Greenville, GA 30222. Once eligibility to receive your high school diploma is determined, you will be notified.