

# Louisiana Diplomas for Displaced Out-of-State Students ("Distance Diplomas")

## Frequently Asked Questions

If you are a former Louisiana student displaced in another state due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, you have several options for high school graduation. These questions and answers have been prepared to help you understand what your options are and how to proceed.

**1. What are my options for high school graduation?**

You may earn a high school diploma from the state where you are now residing **or** you may earn a Louisiana high school diploma if you meet the Louisiana graduation requirements.

**2. Who is eligible for the Distance Diploma program?**

Students are eligible if they are former Louisiana public school students displaced due to Hurricanes Katrina or Hurricane Rita and they plan to graduate this year (2005-2006) or next year (2006-2007). Displaced students who have completed course requirements but need to retake the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) are also eligible.

**3. If I want to earn the Louisiana diploma, what are the requirements?**

You must earn 23 "Carnegie units" (course credits) and pass the Louisiana Graduation Exit Examination (GEE).

**4. What are the course requirements?**

<b>English</b>	<b>4 units</b>
English I, II, and III, IV (or Business English).	
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3 units</b>
(Effective for incoming freshmen 1997-98 through 2004-2005) Courses shall be selected from the following and may include a maximum of 2 entry level courses (designated by E):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory Algebra/Geometry (E)</li> <li>• Algebra I-Part 1 (E)</li> <li>• Algebra I-Part 2</li> <li>• Integrated Mathematics I (E)</li> <li>• Integrated Mathematics II</li> <li>• Integrated Mathematics III</li> <li>• Applied Mathematics I (E)</li> <li>• Applied Mathematics II</li> <li>• Applied Mathematics III</li> <li>• Algebra I (E)</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II</li> <li>• Financial Mathematics</li> <li>• Advanced Mathematics I</li> <li>• Advanced Mathematics II</li> <li>• Pre-Calculus</li> <li>• Calculus</li> <li>• Probability and Statistics</li> <li>• Discrete Mathematics</li> </ul>	

<b>Science</b>	<b>3 units</b>
1 unit of Biology 1 unit from the following physical science cluster: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Science</li> <li>• Integrated Science</li> <li>• Chemistry I</li> <li>• Physics I</li> <li>• Physics of Technology I</li> </ul> 1 unit from the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerospace Science</li> <li>• Biology II</li> <li>• Chemistry II</li> <li>• Earth Science</li> <li>• Environmental Science</li> <li>• Physics II</li> <li>• Physics of Technology II</li> <li>• Agriscience II</li> <li>• an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated science elective.</li> </ul> Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course.	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 units</b>
American History one-half unit of Civics one-half unit of Free Enterprise; and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History</li> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• Western Civilization</li> </ul>	
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>½ unit</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1½ units</b>
Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of four units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
<b>Electives</b>	<b>8 units</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23 units</b>

**5. Are substitute courses allowed if my out-of-state school does not offer the exact Louisiana course?**

Yes, substitutions are allowed if your current school does not offer the courses listed above. Your current school guidance counselor can help you determine which courses to take. Your “home” district in Louisiana will evaluate your transcript to determine if your courses meet the substitution requirements.

**6. What are the GEE requirements?**

You must pass the English Language Arts and Math tests, and either the Science or Social Studies test. If you are a senior, you may have already met this requirement. If you are a junior, you will need to take the Science and Social Studies tests, plus the English Language Arts test and/or Math tests if you did not pass them previously.

**7. How can I take the Louisiana Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) if I am out-of-state?**

The GEE will be offered in an online format (GEE Online) beginning in the spring semester of the 2005–2006 school year. After you sign up for the Distance Diploma program, you will register for the GEE in January.

- 8. How do I sign up for the GEE?**  
All eligible students can register for the GEE Online in January 2006. Your current school guidance counselor should login to the Louisiana Department of Education Web site ([www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net), click on "Distance Diplomas") to register you for the test.
- 9. How many times can I take the GEE this year?**  
You will be able to take the GEE three times this year—January 2006, March 2006, and June 2006.
- 10. How will I receive my GEE scores?**  
When you sign up for the GEE, you will receive instructions about how to receive your scores. They will come electronically over the Internet, and you will download them with the ID that you are assigned. Your Louisiana home district will also receive your scores.
- 11. Will the Louisiana diploma be issued from my former Louisiana school?**  
Yes, the diploma will have the name of your former Louisiana school.
- 12. What if I plan to return to Louisiana in the next two years? Can I take the GEE Online so I won't fall behind?**  
Yes, you may take the GEE if you plan to return to Louisiana in the next two years. Your home district will keep a record of your test scores.
- 13. Where will my Louisiana diploma be sent?**  
Your Louisiana diploma will be sent to your current school.
- 14. If I get a Louisiana diploma, will I be able to participate in graduation ceremonies?**  
Check with your current school counselor or administrator regarding participation in graduation ceremonies.
- 15. Will I be able to receive TOPS?**  
For information on possible waivers of TOPS requirements for students displaced by the hurricanes and any other questions related to TOPS, call the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at 800-259-5626 or check their website at <http://www.osfa.state.la.us/>.
- 16. How do I get started?**  
See your guidance counselor to sign up. The guidance counselor should login to the Louisiana Department of Education website, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/>, and click on "Distance Diplomas" to help you sign up.
- 17. Who can I contact for more information?**  
Contact the Louisiana Department of Education toll free at 1-877-453-2721 or look us up on the web at [www.louisianaschools.net](http://www.louisianaschools.net).