



THE AMERICAN DIPLOMA PROJECT

Strategic Focus: The American Diploma Project promoted high school graduation, college readiness, college transition, and college success. This initiative was part of a collaborative effort to raise expectations and achievement in our high schools so that all students graduate with the knowledge and skill they need to be successful in college and work. The goals of the project were to raise the rigor of the high school standards, assessments and curriculum and better align expectations with the demands of post-secondary education and work.

History: Georgia joined with 21 other states in the American Diploma Project (ADP), an effort to raise expectations and achievement in our high schools so that all students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college and work. The project included representatives of the Governor Office, Georgia Department of Education, The Technical College System of Georgia, The University System of Georgia, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, and leaders from the K-12, college, business, and civic communities.

Primary Strategies:

- **Standards:** Align academic standards in high school with the expectations for college and workplace success so that all students who meet the standards are prepared for their next steps in life.
- **Course Requirements:** Upgrade high school course requirements so that all students are required to complete a college and work ready curriculum in order to earn a high school diploma.
- **Assessment:** Redesign selected high school tests in English and mathematics so that they also serve as readiness tests for college and work.
- **Accountability:** Through the current accountability system (legislatively approved), hold high schools and colleges accountable for the success of their students.

Actions completed:

- Completed Georgia's ADP Action Plan.
- Developed college and work readiness standards in English and mathematics (embedded within the high school Georgia Performance Standards) that have the support of the USG and DTAE English and mathematics faculties and the business community (through the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education).
- Linked the Georgia Early College Initiative to the ADP standards to determine student readiness for enrolling in dual enrollment courses, in which they earn both high school and college credit.
- Identified agreed upon accountability measures (among the Department of Education, the Department of Technical and Adult Education, the University System of Georgia, and the Office of Student Achievement) for high school graduation, with virtually all students both college and work ready, student transition from high school to college, and college success.
- The State Board of Education, the State Board of Technical and Adult Education and the Board of Regents agreed upon and approved the college and work readiness standards.
- The State Board of Education approved a new and more rigorous course sequence required for high school graduation.
- The Board of Regents will be considering college admission and test(s) required for college placement that mirror the course sequence approved by the Board of Education.