ACT 97-932

"To require the State Board of Education to make the public high school graduation examination available to non-public high school students for a reasonable fee."

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

1. A participating non-public school must agree to test all eligible students according to the same standards as public schools.

2. There is hereby established a per-examination fee for non-public school students for the graduation examination of $20.00. This fee applies to all non-public school students taking one or all components of the examination.

3. Students planning to take the examination should notify the public school at which they intend to take the examination at least eight (8) weeks prior to the scheduled administration date. It is the responsibility of the non-public school to contact the public school to learn the dates of the administration.

4. Payment shall be made to the public school at least ten (10) working days prior to the administration of the examination and is non-refundable. The fee payment shall be made in cash or money order by individuals or an institutional check from non-public schools made payable to the public school administering the examination.

5. All examinations are to be administered in public schools or buildings designated by the administration of the public schools (administrative buildings, teacher centers, or other facilities conducive to test administration).

6. All examinations are to be administered by public school employees and at no time shall examinations be removed from the premises of the public schools/buildings designated as testing centers.

7. Non-public school students' scores will be returned to the public school and, in turn, returned to the non-public school/student. Non-public and public schools' scores will be separate and not be reported as one score.

8. All preparations (for testing, remediation, and retesting) of non-public school students are the sole responsibility of the non-public school the student attends.

9. Non-public school students will be afforded the same testing conditions and accommodations as public school students, including discipline standards.

The Alabama Department of Education shall disseminate these guidelines and a copy of Act 97-932 to all public and private schools housing high school students, all public school superintendents, and all associations representing public and private schools.