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MEMORANDUM:

TO: School District Superintendents
Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Kevin O’Farrell, Chancellor, Ph.D.

DATE: October 23, 2024

SUBJECT: **Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0201, Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.), High School Equivalency Diplomas**

On September 25, 2024, the State Board of Education approved revisions to Rule 6A-6.0201, (F.A.C.), which governs the issuance of High School Equivalency Diplomas. This amendment is in accordance with changes to Section 1003.435(4)(a), Florida Statutes, made during the 2023-24 legislative session which amended the age eligibility requirements to take the high school equivalency assessment. The amendment includes the following changes:

1. Removal of language pertaining to creating an underage waiver policy and procedure for individuals aged 16 or 17 years of age to take the official GED® test when certain conditions are met, including the minimum requirements for the policy.
2. Removal of information on submitting the waiver to the school district and the Department.
3. Removal of specific language for school districts that require enrollment in coursework as a condition for approval to take the official GED® test indicating the school district may not require enrollment if certain conditions listed are met.
4. Adoption of Form FGED-01, Florida GED® Testing Program Underage Testing Form.
5. Addition of specific language effective November 1, 2024, for the parent or legal guardian of a candidate aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years of age to sign, notarize and submit form FGED-01 along with proof of withdrawal from school to the High School Equivalency Diploma Program office before the candidate can schedule a sub-test of the 2014 GED® Test.

A copy of the rule and form are attached for your reference.

Action Required

1. School Districts must update pupil progression plans to amend their underage testing waiver policy and procedures for individuals aged 16 or 17 years of age to take the official GED® test when certain conditions are met.

Kevin O’Farrell, Ph.D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

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Please contact Ashley Olevitch, High School Equivalency Manager, at Ashley.Olevitch1@fldoe.org if
you have any questions.

KO/ao

Attachments

cc: School District Adult Education Directors
Florida College System Adult Education Directors
Adult Education Community Based Organizations
GED Sponsoring Agency Managers
GED Testing Center Managers

6A-6.0201 State of Florida High School Diplomas.

(1) Pursuant to the requirements of Section 1003.435, F.S., the Commissioner shall award a State of Florida High School Diploma to a candidate who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Takes at least one (1) exam of the 2014 GED® Test at a testing center in Florida approved by the Department of Education; and,

(b) Attains a minimum score of one hundred and forty-five (145) on each of the four (4) sub-tests of the 2014 GED® Test: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science and Social Studies.

(2) The Commissioner of Education shall award a State of Florida High School Diploma to a candidate who achieved the criteria in subsection (1) from January 1, 2014, to the effective date of this rule.

(3) The Department shall convert sub-test scores which meet the minimum requirement from test administrations at any approved GED® testing center in another state or jurisdiction for residents of the state of Florida. The Commissioner shall award a State of Florida High School Diploma to Florida residents who meet the passing standard as specified in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule or the Florida passing standard for any previous test series. Individuals must provide proof of residency for a test score from another state or jurisdiction to be converted.

(4) The Department shall designate official testing centers in the state which are authorized to act as agents of the state in administering the 2014 GED® Test. The following entities are eligible to be authorized to offer the 2014 GED® Test:

(a) Public schools or other appropriate facilities of a local education agency (LEA).

(b) Public postsecondary educational institutions.

(c) Correctional facilities for state and/or local inmates.

(d) Correctional facilities for individuals in the custody of or under the supervision of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

(e) If adequate access to public testing is not available at public schools and public postsecondary educational institutions in the county, other not-for-profit educational institutions or other governmental entities, including public libraries, are eligible to be approved as testing centers.

(f) OnVUE online-proctored testing center.

(5) Each official testing center shall establish a schedule for testing which adequately meets the needs of the candidates within its service area.

(6) The Department shall maintain a perpetual record of individual test results and issue State of Florida High School Diplomas and official transcripts to successful candidates.

(7) For in-person testing at an approved testing center, the statewide testing fee for the 2014 GED® Test shall be thirty-eight (38) dollars for each of the following sub-tests: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Social Studies and Science. This fee shall be paid by the candidate at the time of the registration and scheduling of the test and includes an electronic diploma and electronic transcript.

(8) For an online-proctored test administration, the statewide testing fee for the 2014 GED® Test shall be thirty-eight (38) dollars for each of the following sub-tests: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Social Studies and Science. This fee shall be paid by the candidate at the time of the registration and scheduling of the test and includes an electronic diploma and electronic transcript.

(9) A fee shall be assessed for the following services and document production to test takers or other entities seeking official documents with the signed authority of the test candidate or recipient of the diploma for all documents and services provided on or after July 1, 2024:

(a) Duplication of diploma and transcript: twenty (20) dollars.

(b) Conversion of scores from applicants who have taken the GED® tests in the military or other states or jurisdictions: fifteen (15) dollars.

(c) Third-party verification of diploma and transcript: twenty-two (22) dollars.

(d) Initial optional printed diploma: ten (10) dollars.

(10) Pursuant to the requirements of s. 1003.435, F.S., individuals aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years of age must terminate school enrollment prior to taking the 2014 GED® Test. Effective November 1, 2024, the parent or legal guardian of the individual aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years of age must submit a signed and notarized Underage Testing Form and proof of withdrawal from school to the High School Equivalency Diploma Program office via email at GEDAgeWaiver@fldoe.org before

the individual can schedule a sub-test of the 2014 GED® Test.

(a) The individual will be notified by GED® when they are cleared to take the 2014 GED® test.

(b) Test scores, and any diplomas based on such scores, that are earned by someone under the age of eighteen (18) not in conformance with this rule will be invalidated.

(11) Required form for authorization to test for individuals aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17). The following form is hereby incorporated by reference: Form FGED-01, Florida GED® Testing Program Underage Testing Form (effective October 2024) (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-17062>). The form may be obtained by contacting the High School Equivalency Diploma Program Office, Bureau of Adult Education, Division of Career and Adult Education, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), 1003.435(1), (4)(b) FS. Law Implemented 1003.435 FS. History--New 11-19-13, Amended 3-23-16, 9-21-21, 9-26-23, 7-2-24, 10-29-24.