

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

RULE 81

REGULATIONS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

**TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,
CHAPTER 81**

**EFFECTIVE DATE
JANUARY 1, 2002
(REVISED)**

**State of Nebraska
Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509**



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CHAPTER 81 - RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL
EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

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001 General Provisions

001.01 Statutory Authority. The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the administration of the High School Equivalency Program as provided in Nebraska Statutes 79-730 through 79-733 R.R.S. Neb. The decision of the State Board of Education with reference to the eligibility of an applicant for a diploma of high school equivalency shall be final.

001.02 Implementation Date. Regardless of the effective date of the approval of this chapter, the implementation date will be January 1, 2002.

002 Definition of Terms As used in this chapter:

002.01 Approved Tests shall mean the General Educational Development Tests as prepared and furnished by the American Council on Education.

002.02 Diploma shall mean a certificate or document signifying the successful acquisition of competencies specified as equivalent to the educational development and abilities of the typical high school graduate.

002.03 G.E.D. shall mean General Educational Development.

002.04 Official G.E.D. Testing Centers are those public secondary and post secondary institutions located throughout the State of Nebraska which are authorized by the Commissioner of Education to administer the G.E.D. examination.

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002.05 Reasonable certainty, with respect to the achievement of educational development abilities shall mean a standard score commensurate with those standard scores which would be attained by the typical high school graduate or as established by the Commissioner of Education.

003 Eligibility Criteria for Diploma Recipients

003.01 The Commissioner of Education has the authority to issue a High School Equivalency Diploma conveying all the significance and privilege of a regular high school diploma to any person who is not a high school graduate and who meets the following requirements:

003.01A The applicant must have been a resident of Nebraska for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the date of application, or the final period of high school attendance during which credit was earned toward graduation was in a Nebraska high school. (79-730(1))

003.01B On the basis of achievement in approved tests and other criteria deemed pertinent by the Commissioner of Education, there is reasonable certainty that the applicant has attained the educational development and abilities of the typical high school graduate. (79-730(2))

003.01C The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age and is unable to secure a diploma from the last attended high school; or the class in which the applicant was enrolled at the time of withdrawal from school has been graduated for at least one (1) year. (79-730(3))

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004 Application and Testing Procedures

004.01 Application:

004.01A An application must be properly completed when presented at an official G.E.D. Testing Center.

004.01B Verification of Age.

004.01B1 The local G.E.D. Chief Examiner will verify the applicant's age by a copy of his or her birth certificate, baptismal certificate, draft card, high school transcript, DD214 (discharge) form, Military Identification Card or a valid official state driver's license, photo bearing identification card or passport.

004.01C An applicant, under the age of 18, must present:

004.01C1 A properly completed application.

004.01C2 His/her handwritten letter stating the reason(s) for dropping from school, for wanting to write the examination early, their future plans, and the name of the school official or counselor contacted.

004.01C3 A copy of his/her transcript of credits from the last high school attended indicating the date of withdrawal from

school.

004.02 Waiting period: There will be at least a 60-day waiting period between withdrawing from school and writing the GED Examination, unless a waiver of the waiting period is requested by the last school attended.

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004.03 Retesting:

004.03A An applicant whose scores are below acceptable standards may retest when sufficient evidence of additional study in the area of the test(s) failed is presented, or with the passage of 60 days.

004.03B Retesting is only required for the test(s) failed.

004.04 No person under the age of 16 shall write the GED Test.

005 Issuance of the Diploma

005.01 The Commissioner of Education shall issue a High School Equivalency Diploma based upon the following requirements:

005.01A Minimum test scores: Commencing July 1, 1997, a standard score of 40 on each of the five General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Tests and an average standard score of 45 on all five has been earned. Commencing January 1, 2002, a standard score of 410 on each of the five General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Tests and an average standard score of 450 on all five has been

earned. Test scores are accepted as official only when reported directly by Official G.E.D. Centers, the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), directors of Veterans Administration hospitals, or the GED Testing Service.

005.01B Age and Class membership: (1) The diploma candidate has attained his or her eighteenth birthday and is unable to secure a diploma from the high school he or she last attended; or (2) the class of which he/she was a member at the time of withdrawal from school has been graduated for one year.

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005.01C Residence: The diploma recipient has been a resident of Nebraska for at least 30 days immediately preceding application, or the final period of high school attendance during which credit was earned toward graduation was in a Nebraska high school.

005.01D Fees:

005.01D1 The diploma candidate has paid a fee of \$5.00.

005.01D2 A duplicate of the diploma maybe acquired by the remittance of the fee of \$2.00.

005.01D3 An official transcript of scores may be acquired by the remittance of a fee of \$2.00.

006 Testing Facilities

006.01 A GED Testing Center is established upon determination of need by the Commissioner of Education when the proposed site and its agency meet the

requirements of the Commission on Educational Credit.