



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Adult Career and Continuing Education Services
(ACCES) Committee

FROM: Kevin G. Smith 

SUBJECT: Amendment of Section 100.8 of the Regulations of the
Commissioner of Education Relating to Local High School
Equivalency Diplomas based upon Experimental
Programs

DATE: January 30, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment to section 100.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to local high school equivalency diplomas based upon experimental programs?

Reason for Consideration

Implementation of Policy

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be presented to the Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) Committee for discussion at the February 2012 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The Board of Regents amended section 100.8 of the Commissioner's Regulations in May 2011 to extend the authority of school boards to issue local high

school equivalency diplomas based upon experimental programs from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Background Information

Section 100.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education allows school districts to award local high school equivalency diplomas based upon experimental programs approved by the Commissioner. These diplomas differ from local high school diplomas which the Board of Regents has acted to phase out under Section 100.5 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

The proposed amendment would extend for an additional year, through June 30, 2013, the existing regulation that allows boards of education to award a local high school equivalency diploma based upon experimental programs. The extension will allow the continuance in New York State of the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), which is a complete assessment program that allows adults over age 21 to demonstrate and document the outcomes and transferable skills for which a high school diploma is awarded. The NEDP is a competency based, applied performance assessment system which capitalizes on an adult's life experiences and uses a practical application of learning for assessment through such methods as simulations, authentic demonstration, research projects, hands-on interviews and oral interviews. An NEDP candidate must demonstrate a job skill and the competencies that align with the skills needed to function effectively in the workplace. All competencies require a 100 percent mastery.

This one year extension is recommended to ensure that all current NEDP students in the approximately 18 program sites across the state are provided with an opportunity to complete their programs and earn a local high school equivalency diploma.

Over the next 12 months, depending on policy and direction from the Regents ACCES Committee, staff will be developing proposed amendments to Section 100.7(a)(2) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education that will provide for the opportunity for adult students to earn a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma upon satisfactory completion of an External Diploma Program as approved by the Commissioner Education. These Equivalency Diplomas will be issued by the Department, as opposed to the local high school equivalency diploma which is issued by local school boards. This will create an additional option and pathway for adult students while phasing out the need and authority for school boards to issue the local high school equivalency diploma.

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on February 15, 2012. Supporting materials are available on request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the ACCES Committee reach consensus on the intent of the proposed amendment prior to taking action at the April Regents meeting.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Committee agrees with the approach outlined above, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment to section 100.8 will be presented for adoption at the April Regents meeting, with an effective date of May 16, 2012.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 208, 209, 305, 309 and 3204

Section 100.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective May 16, 2012, as follows:

100.8 Local high school equivalency diploma.

Boards of education specified by the commissioner may award a local high school equivalency diploma based upon experimental programs approved by the commissioner until [June 30, 2012] June 30, 2013, after which date such boards may no longer award a local high school equivalency diploma.