

ADULT EDUCATION

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STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN ADULT EDUCATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

GED Exit Option Model is being phased out and it is anticipated that 2009-2010 will be the last year for this program.

The GED Exit Option is an approved graduation option affiliated with GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education and the State Department of Education. Currently enrolled overage-for-grade high school students are eligible to take the GED tests. If students pass both the GED tests and FCAT, they are eligible to graduate receiving a district high school diploma in addition to a State of Florida diploma. Students may not graduate before their peer group with whom they entered kindergarten. An explanation of each specific guideline for the model is on file at the District Office and the Adult/Community Education Center.

Ninth grade students participating in the GED Exit Option program will be promoted and reported during FTE survey week as 10th grade students. In the event a student does not complete the GED Exit Option program and returns to a Sumter County high school, grade placement will be determined by the number of credits earned.

Students enrolled in the GED Exit Option Model strategy are exempted from the requirement to earn a specific number of credits and the requirement to achieve a minimum 2.0 grade point average. However, these students are required to pass both sections of the FCAT and the GED test in order to receive a standard diploma. The transcripts of students who participate in this strategy will indicate an alternative graduation route and will reflect only the actual number of credits earned. Any credits earned while in the GED Exit Option program will follow the grading system of the school of current enrollment.

Attendance is mandatory and follows the attendance policy as outlined in the General Information section of this document.

Student Eligibility Criteria for GED Exit Option

Students who are at least 16 years of age and currently enrolled in high school may be eligible for the GED Exit Option Model. This option may only be exercised for those students whose class or peer group with which they entered kindergarten is graduating or has graduated. The local school board must approve rules allowing students 16 to 17 years of age to take the GED Tests by documenting extraordinary circumstances. By meeting the specific eligibility criteria for the GED Exit Option Model, students automatically meet extraordinary circumstance status and do not need individual documentation beyond the approval established in school board policy. It is not appropriate to place students who are younger than 16 years of age into the GED Exit Option Model or GED Preparation Program. Adult and Community Education (ACE) policy and procedures prohibit administration of the GED Tests to individuals less than 16 years of age. Each student's eligibility will be determined at the high school of enrollment.

Students utilizing the GED Exit Option Model must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- 16 years old and currently enrolled in a PK-12 program
- Enrolled in courses that meet high school graduation requirements overage for grade, behind in credits, low GPA and in jeopardy of not graduating with their cohort group
- Cohort group with which student entered kindergarten is graduating or has graduated
Minimum reading level at seventh grade documented by the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) reading component or other test to determine grade level proficiency
- Acceptable scores on official GED Practice Tests, administered under student testing conditions

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) TEST

The State Commissioner of Education shall award a State of Florida high school diploma to a candidate who meets all of the requirements as prescribed in State Board Rules.

MINIMUM AGE

Any candidate for a high school equivalency (GED) diploma in Sumter County 17 years of age with a minimum of 30 class hours, teacher recommendation, and required scores on TABE and pre-GED exams can test. Extraordinary circumstances may exist in which the candidate may take the examination after reaching the age of 16 years. These extraordinary cases shall include:

1. Young parents who have a child to care for at home.
2. Inmates at the Sumter County Detention Center who are participating in the GED Prep program.
3. Any individual student who, because of emotional, physical, or disciplinary exceptionalities, the Superintendent or his designee determines will be better served through the examination and not through the regular educational process. These individual students must prove academic ability to pass the test by achieving successful scores on the official GED practice tests. Regardless of the extraordinary circumstances, the student must prove competency on the official GED pretest.

RESIDENCE

A candidate shall be a resident of Florida. A candidate may be considered to be a resident of the state when he meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. Owns a home or business in Florida at the time of application
2. Has filed a declaration of domicile with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of this Florida county of residence
3. Has registered to vote in local or state elections

Is a military service person stationed in Florida, or is a dependent of such military service person

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION REQUIRED

Candidates must complete an application and provide proof of Florida residency identification, a Florida driver's license, and a copy of their social security card. Required fees must be paid prior to GED testing.

GED ADULT ATTENDANCE

GED students are required to attend six hours every two weeks. Classes are available in 2.5 and three hour blocks, mornings and evenings, Monday through Thursday. A student with eight consecutive absences will be withdrawn for non-attendance.

MINIMUM TEST SCORES REQUIRED

Candidates must attain a minimum standard score of 410 on each test and an average score of 450 for the five-test battery is the minimum passing standard set by GED Testing Service.

STUDENT TESTING

Students entering the Credit, Literacy, and GED Prep portion of the Adult Education Program will be administered the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) survey test. Students participating in the Adult Basic Literacy Program will be administered the TABE.

1. The Assessment of Adult Education Students, including English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Vocational English Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) Students are as follows: All English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Vocational Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) students must be pre- and post-tested using either the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) (Life Skills or Employability), Basic English Skills Test (BEST) Plus, Basic English Skills Test (BEST), or the Adult Language Assessment Scales (A-LAS).

English as a Second Language Oral Assessment (ESLOA), Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST) cannot be used to show student progression from one Educational Functioning Level (EFL) to the next for NRS reporting purposes.

No adult education student in any discipline may be reported as completing an Educational Functioning Level (EFL) by using a checklist. All students must be post-tested to show progression. Checklists will no longer be accepted as a way of showing progress or progression. CASAS requires about 70 to 100 hours of instruction before post-testing and TABE requires about six (6) weeks between testing.

2. All adult general education students (including GED Prep) must be pre-tested to show initial skills upon entry into a program.
3. If an adult ESOL/VESOL student was pre-tested using TABE prior to October 11, 2004, he/she may post-test using TABE to show appropriate gains or retest using CASAS, A-LAS, BEST, or BEST Plus.
4. The TABE may be used to determine the readiness of ESOL/VESOL students to an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructional program.
5. If an ESOL/VESOL student has not been tested recently and has been promoted using a checklist, he/she will need to retest using CASAS, A-LAS, BEST, or BEST Plus within this school year.

RETESTING

A candidate who fails to attain the required minimum score on the initial testing may retake those tests at any subsequent testing session upon the payment of the required fee for each individual test to be retaken. After the second testing a candidate is eligible to retake the tests at any subsequent testing session upon the payment for each test to be retaken, if an overall minimum standard score of 450 has been achieved on at least three of the tests.

All other candidates who fail three or more of the tests must observe the following requirements before being admitted to retake the tests:

1. A period of three months must elapse.
2. The three months waiting period may be reduced to not less than one month for candidates who pursue intensive review classes in each subject failed and show sufficient improvement as determined by acceptable scores on the official GED practice tests.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION TUITION AND FEES

The 2011 General Appropriations Act amended the tuition and fees policies for 2011-2012. The following changes to tuition levels for 2011-2012 were included:

Effective July 1, 2011, the standard tuition was increased to \$2.22 for Career Certificates/Applied Technology Diplomas and block tuition rated of \$45.00 per half year or \$30.00 per term for Adult General Education. The out-of-state fees shall be \$135.00 per half year or \$90.00 per term.