





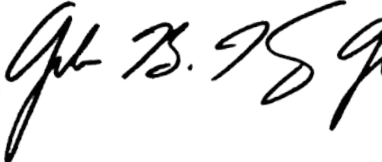
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Full Board

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: April 6, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

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 Full Board for action at the April 2012 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The proposed amendment was discussed by the ACCES Committee at the February Regents meeting. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on February 15, 2012. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

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.

During the proposed one-year extension of the NEDP, SED intends to release a Request for Information (RFI) designed to inform plans to develop multiple pathways to the State High School Equivalency diploma. Based upon this information, staff will propose 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 the instruments identified as meeting Board of Regents established standards. Considering communications with Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS), the NEDP vendor, we anticipate that they will respond to the RFI and apply to be considered as a pathway to the State High School Equivalency Diploma.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: that section 100.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be amended, as submitted, effective May 16, 2012.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the April Regents meeting, the amendment will become effective on 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.