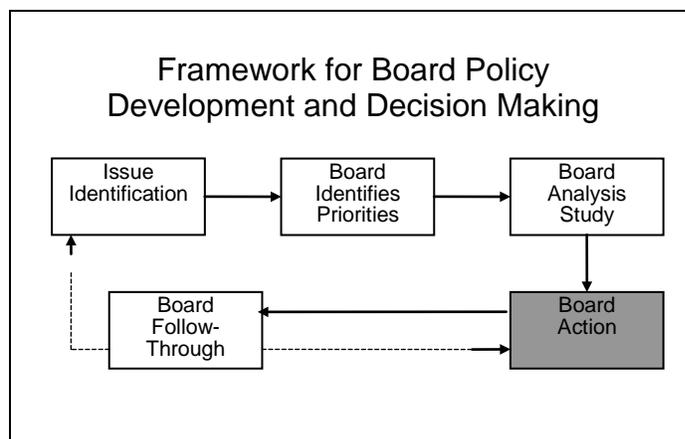


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 14, 2012



Agenda Item: Rules: Chapter 32 – Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma (Notice)

Iowa Goal: All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.

State Board Role/ Authority: Iowa Code section 256.7(5) gives the State Board of Education the statutory authority to adopt rules under chapter 17A.

Presenters: None (consent agenda)

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 32.

Background: These rule changes update policies concerning Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas. The current rule requires applicants to satisfactorily complete a specific test to qualify for the diploma. While the current vendor of what is commonly known as the “GED” will continue to be able to bid on this service, it also opens up the process to other vendors who are now providing such services in other states. In addition, student test scores will now be valid for five years to gain a diploma and age requirements for taking the test are established. Finally, applicant costs have changed from a set dollar figure to an amount designed to cover actual test costs. This prevents multiple changes in the rules to cover cost changes as they occur from time to time, but are limited to those actual costs.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 32, “Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter provides standards and procedures for proper management and administration of a high school equivalency test. Changes in the single source provider required changes in the administration of testing procedures. The amendments proposed are designed to bring alignment to the Iowa Code 259A.

Interested persons may submit comments orally or in writing by January 4, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on proposed Chapter 32 should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, second floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3399; e-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on January 4, 2013, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., in the State Board Room, second floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of their specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code 259A, as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 470, section 7.

Item 1. Amend rule **281—32.1(259A)** as follows:

281—32.1(259A) Test. Applicants for ~~high school equivalency diplomas~~ the “Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma” shall ~~satisfactorily complete the General Education Development Tests published by the General Educational Development Testing Services of the American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036.~~ indicate the holder thereof has achieved the equivalent of a high school education as measured by scores obtained on the test(s) approved by the Iowa department of education to measure high school completion.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.1.

Item 2. Amend rule **281—32.2(259A)** as follows:

281—32.2(259A) By whom administered. ~~The General Educational Development tests shall be administered in official testing centers authorized by the General Educational Development Testing Service, other agencies for whom scores are reported by the General Educational Development Testing Service, Defense Activities for Non-Traditional Educational Support (DANTES), and other agencies upon special authorization of the Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials~~ Iowa department of education. Official testing centers shall be established with an accredited and approved institution.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.2.

Item 3. Amend rule **281—32.3(259A)** as follows:

281—32.3(259A) Minimum score. Applicants ~~shall make a minimum standard score of 410 on each test and an average standard score of 450 on all five of the General~~

Educational Development Tests must achieve the appropriate minimum standard scores in effect at the time the applicant tested as established by the Iowa department of education.

[ARC 9903B, IAB 12/14/11, effective 1/18/12]

Item 4. Amend rule **281—32.4(259A)** as follows:

281—32.4(259A) Date of test. Effectiveness of Test Scores. ~~Test results dated prior to the date of application will be acceptable provided the tests were taken at an authorized center as specified in rule 32.2(259A).~~ Test scores shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of the first test. If the applicant has not received their Iowa High School Equivalency diploma by then, applicant must retake the expired test(s). The only exception is for test series expiring prior to the five years, in which case all prior tests are void.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa code section 259A.1.

Item 5. Amend rule **281—32.5(259A)** as follows:

281—32.5(259A) Retest. Any applicant not achieving the minimum standard test scores as defined in rule 281—32.3(259A), upon payment of a ~~\$10~~ fee to cover only the testing costs, shall be permitted to make application for retest and scoring of the retest, provided that one of the following conditions is met:

32.5(1) A period of ~~six~~ three (3) months from the date of original testing has elapsed.

32.5(2) Applicant shall complete instruction in an adult education program, in the area or areas to be retested. This instruction shall be certified by an official of the adult education program to ~~the chief or alternate examiner administering the retest(s).~~ test administrator (state or local) authorized to release the retest earlier than three (3) months.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 259A.2 and 259A.5

Item 6. Amend rule **281—32.6(259A)** as follows:

281—32.6(259A) Application fee. The applicant or supporting agency shall pay an application fee of \$25 to cover only actual testing costs. ~~This fee shall be paid to the official Iowa General Educational Development Testing Agency and shall allow for initial testing and scoring of the initial testing of the eligible candidate with the five General Educational Development Tests.~~

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 259A.2 and 259A.5

281—32.7(259A) Diploma, transcript, verification fees. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a high school equivalency diploma to an applicant who has achieved the minimum and average scores established in rule 281—32.3(259A). Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a copy of an applicant's transcript to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the transcript. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a verification that an applicant has earned a high school equivalency diploma to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the verification.

[ARC 9903B, IAB 12/14/11, effective 1/18/12]

Item 7. Add new rule **281—32.8(259A)** as follows:

281—32.8(259A) Admission to Testing. No one under 16 years of age is allowed to test. Testing of 16 years old are restricted to these conditions: a) resident of an Iowa Juvenile Institution; or b) under the supervision of a probation office. To take the high

school equivalency test, anyone 17 years of age or older who is not enrolled in a secondary school or a high school graduate may be admitted to testing. The only requirement for admission for testing is proof of age and for applicants 17-18 years of age verification of non-enrolled status and has the consent of his/her parent or guardian. The applicant can not receive their diploma until age 18 and his/her class from 9th grade has graduated.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 259A.2