NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

RULE 81

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,
CHAPTER 81

EFFECTIVE DATE
OCTOBER 26, 2013
(REVISED)

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

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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 pursuant to Sections 79-730 through 79-733 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.). 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, 2014.

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 GED® Testing Service.

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 GED® shall mean General Educational Development.

002.04 Official GED® 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 GED® examination.

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 GED® Testing Center.

004.01B Verification of Age.

004.01B1 The local GED® 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 A copy of his/her transcript of credits from the last high school attended indicating the date of withdrawal from school and for all applicants who were required by Section 79-202(1) R.R.S. to have a signed withdrawal form or notarized release form prior to withdrawing before graduation, a copy of such form.

004.02 Retesting:

004.02A An applicant whose scores are below acceptable standards may retest with the passage of 30 days since the test was taken.

004.02B Retesting is only required for the test(s) failed.

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

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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 January 1, 2002 and continuing through December 31, 2013, a standard score of 410 on each of the five General Educational Development (GED®) Tests and an average standard score of 450 on all five has been earned. Commencing January 1, 2014, the passing standard on each of the four content modules will be 150. The minimum battery passing score will be the sum of the four module passing scores, which is a total of 600. Test scores are accepted as official only when reported directly by Official GED® 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.

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.

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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 GED® Testing Service.