



CHARLIE CRIST
Commissioner

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lanny Larson
DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Adult Education Directors
GED Chief Examiners
Department of Juvenile Justice Lead Educators

FROM: Dr. Lanny Larson

DATE: October 17, 2002

SUBJECT: GED Testing of Youth Served in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs

S. 1003.52, F.S. *Educational Services in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs*, provides for the participation of Juvenile Justice Education students in GED preparation coursework. This statute allows juvenile justice educators and students preparing for GED study and examination to take advantage of the expertise and resources available through the Division of Workforce Development.

According to Rule 6A-6.05281 Educational Programs for Youth in Department of Juvenile Justice Detention, Commitment, Day Treatment, or Early Delinquency Intervention Programs. "School districts must provide instruction to prepare all students to demonstrate proficiency in the skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation. For students placed in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) programs, collaboration between the DJJ, the Department of Education, school districts, and private providers is essential in order for these students to attain this goal and become productive members of the community.

(b) If any student in these DJJ facilities has filed an intent to terminate school enrollment, the local school district shall notify these students of the option of enrolling in a program to attain a General Education Diploma (GED).

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2. GED preparation shall meet GED course requirements specified in Rules 6A-6.0571 and 6A-6.021, FAC., and Adult Education course descriptions and/or the school district's approved GED/HSCT Exit Option must meet the requirements specified by the Department of Education."

This statute has led to an increasing number of detained and/or committed youth being eligible to take the GED examination. State Board rules currently designate specific forms of identification as acceptable for verification of youth identity for students placed in Detention or Commitment programs in the temporary custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The Department of Education has made an exception to the current GED Examiner's Manual allowing these students to be regarded as participants in the "corrections" population, thus permitting Select State Personnel the authority and responsibility to verify identity.

The Department of Education has approved a process to verify identity that is comparable to protocols used by the Department of Corrections and will enhance the completion rate of students in Juvenile Justice Education programs. The following recommendations are presented to assist in the resolution of these two issues:

- (1) Juvenile Justice educators need to be aware that paperwork requesting accommodations for students with disabilities needs to be completed at least six weeks prior to the date of the exam.
- (2) The Department of Education will accept verification of youth's identity by the Department of Juvenile Justice Program Administrator or designee responsible for the student's temporary care, custody, and control as verified by a court order. This proof will constitute an official confirmation of examinee identity in lieu of an original Social Security Card or Photo Identification for students in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Note: These youth have been fingerprinted and photographed prior to placement in the Department's custody.

We welcome you and your institution to take complete advantage of this waiver and provide the residents in juvenile justice facilities the opportunity to prepare for and take the GED exam.

If you need more information regarding this issue, please contact Jane Silveria at (850) 487-1603 or by e-mail at Jane.Silveria@FLDOE.ORG.

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