

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Dr. Eric J. Smith  
Commissioner of Education



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## Technical Assistance Paper

### Information on General Educational Development Preparation, General Educational Development, and the Performance-Based Exit Option for Use in Department of Juvenile Justice Education Programs

**Summary:** The purpose of this technical assistance paper is to provide information on the use of General Educational Development Preparation, General Educational Development, and the Performance-Based Exit Option in Department of Juvenile Justice Education Programs.

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**A. General Educational Development (GED) Preparation**

**A-1. What is GED preparation?**

GED preparation consists of adult education courses designed to prepare individuals at a ninth grade level or above to successfully complete the five GED subject area tests leading to qualification for a state of Florida high school diploma.

**A-2. Can students in Department of Juvenile Justice programs enroll in GED preparation courses and still receive K–12 funding?**

Yes, section 1003.52(3), Florida Statute (F.S.), states “students participating in GED preparation programs shall be funded at the basic cost factor for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) programs in the Florida Education Finance Program.” GED preparation course numbers 9900020–9900026 are eligible for K–12 funding.

**A-3. What kind of certification does a teacher need to teach GED preparation courses in DJJ programs?**

A teacher must have a bachelor’s degree or higher to teach GED preparation courses in DJJ programs.

**B. GED Assessment**

**B-1. Is there an age requirement to take the GED?**

Section 1003.435(4), F.S., requires GED candidates to “be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination, except that in extraordinary circumstances, as provided for in rules of the district school board of the district in which the candidate resides or attends school, a candidate may take the examination after reaching the age of 16.”

*Note: The decision to pursue a GED should be based on the individual needs of the student.*

**B-2. Must a student in a DJJ program be withdrawn from K–12 prior to taking the GED?**

Yes, per the *GED Testing Service Policies and Procedures Manual*, GED candidates must not be currently enrolled in an accredited high school. To access the manual go to <http://ged.fldoe.org/pdf/gedts.pdf>.

**B-3. Can a student be re-enrolled in K–12 while he/she is waiting on GED results?**

A student’s eligibility to take the GED test is based on the student not being enrolled in an accredited high school. Because waiting on GED test results implies that a student is seeking to complete their education by earning a GED, it would not be appropriate to re-

enroll the student into K–12 education. In addition, the diploma date noted on the GED is the actual GED test date.

**B-4. Can a student who has taken and failed to pass the GED re-enroll in K–12?**

Yes, a student can re-enroll in high school as long as their intent is to pursue a high school diploma. A student who seeks to earn only a GED should not be re-enrolled or enrolled in high school.

**B-5. Who is responsible for paying for the GED Tests for DJJ students?**

Section 1003.51(4), F.S., indicates that administrative fees for the GED are the responsibility of district school boards and may be required of providers by contractual agreement. In accordance with Rule 6A-6.021, Florida Administrative Code, each district shall establish a fee for each candidate taking the entire test battery consisting of the five GED tests that does not exceed the national and state required fee of \$70.00.

**C. Performance-Based Exit Option**

**C-1. What is the Performance-Based Exit Option?**

The Performance-Based Exit Option (formerly GED Exit Option) is an alternative route to graduation for students who are at risk of not graduating on time with their cohort (class with whom the student entered kindergarten) due to credit deficiency, low grade point average, or being overage for grade.

**C-2. What are the eligibility requirements for the Performance-Based Exit Option?**

Students who wish to pursue this graduation route must be:

- At least 16 years of age or older and enrolled in a K–12 program
- Enrolled in and attending courses that meet high school graduation requirements (Level 1 courses must be documented on an individual educational plan [IEP] otherwise they are not allowable; GED preparation courses are not permitted)
- In jeopardy of not graduating with their kindergarten cohort and
- Demonstrate evidence of academic ability (7<sup>th</sup> grade reading level or higher at time of selection, 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level or higher at time of testing)

**C-3. Can a student in the Performance-Based Exit Option remain enrolled in PK–12 while he/she takes the GED?**

Yes, to participate in the Performance-Based Exit Option, it is a requirement that students be enrolled in PK–12. According to the GED Testing Service, participation in the Performance-Based Exit Option is the only allowable exception for a student to take the GED tests while enrolled in PK–12.

**D. Data Reporting**

**D-1. How are data reported for students who seek and earn the GED?**

Prior to testing for the GED, a code of W26 indicating withdrawal to adult education must be entered.

Once the student has passed all sections of the GED Tests, two records should be submitted in the end of year format for Survey 5. These records are W26 and grade level 30 or 31 (one record) and a W45 (indicates the student was awarded the GED as an adult student).

**D-2. How are data reported for students who seek and earn the Performance-Based Exit Option?**

For students who pass the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and GED, a code of W10 should be reported. A code of WGA is reported when the student has passed the GED and FCAT via concordant scores. If the student only passed the GED, a code of WGD should be reported.