



FY2013 RECOMMENDATION/FY13-JJ01 AMEND COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RULES REGARDING AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2013 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

Action on this recommendation was completed with the passage of House Bill 13-1021.

2012 UPDATE

This recommendation was passed by the Commission as a rule change in July, 2012. However, since this passing it has been decided by the Juvenile Justice Task Force that in order for it to have the appropriate effect it should be statutory. Thus, it will be represented to the Commission as a legislative recommendation. This change will include the following:

22-33-104.7. Eligibility for the general educational development tests

Any child sixteen years of age MAY BE TESTED PROVIDED HE/SHE MEETS THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS. (A) THE CANDIDATE MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN AGE WAIVER APPLICATION FORM, CDE 381.1; ~~and (b)~~ ALONG WITH EITHER (1) ~~they provide~~ A WRITTEN LETTER FROM A UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM STATING THAT THE CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO SHOW DOCUMENTATION OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR THE EQUIVALENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO A SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. OR (2) UPON APPROVAL BY A JUDICIAL OFFICER OR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER WHEN THE CANDIDATE IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO THE COURT'S JURISDICTION ~~as a result of a delinquency or status offender hearing~~ AND WHERE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT SUCH REQUEST IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE JUVENILE. THIS DETERMINATION WILL BE BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: A) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED TO DATE BY THE JUVENILE AND NUMBER OF CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE; B) THE OUTCOME OF CREDIT RECOVERY AND SCHOOL REENGAGEMENT PLANS DEVELOPED BY THE SCHOOLS ~~for~~ WITH THE JUVENILE; AND C) WISHES OF THE JUVENILE AND/OR HIS/HER PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

Description

Amend Colorado Department of Education rules regarding age restrictions for the General Equivalency Diploma.

Request the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) amend its rules (1 CCR 301-2) to permit the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) option be opened for 16 year old juveniles appearing

before the court when provided sufficient information to determine it is in the best interest of the youth.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

The Commission members believe that all children should be provided an opportunity to achieve a high school diploma. Not all juveniles benefit from a traditional school experience, especially those who become disengaged in their early education years. Although CDE has numerous opportunities to address these needs (EARRS programs, alternative schools) older students who have already lost years of academic credit need options such as pursuing a GED to complete their secondary education. The adoption of this recommendation may result in a reduction in detention of juveniles that refuse to attend school and therefore cycle in and out of the court system for contempt of valid court orders to attend school.

Suggested rule amendment:

130.01 (A) A sixteen (16) year old candidate may be tested provided he/she meets the following conditions. (A) the candidate must complete AND SUBMIT an age waiver application form, CDE 381.1; AND (B) ALONG WITH EITHER (1) ~~they provide~~ a written letter from a university, college or vocational education program stating that the candidate is required to show documentation of a high school diploma or the equivalent to be eligible for admission to a specific educational or vocational education program, OR (2) UPON APPROVAL BY A JUDICIAL OFFICER OR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER WHEN THE CANDIDATE IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO THE COURT'S JURISDICTION ~~as a result of a delinquency or status offender hearing~~ AND WHERE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT SUCH REQUEST IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE JUVENILE. THIS DETERMINATION WILL BE BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: A) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED TO DATE BY THE JUVENILE AND NUMBER OF CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE; B) THE OUTCOME OF CREDIT RECOVERY AND SCHOOL REENGAGEMENT PLANS DEVELOPED BY THE SCHOOLS ~~for~~ WITH THE JUVENILE; AND C) WISHES OF THE JUVENILE AND/OR HIS/HER PARENTS/GUARDIANS.