



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** School Superintendents  
Adult Education Directors  
GED Registrars

**FROM:** John D. Frassinelli, Division Director  
School Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** December 2, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Change in GED Testing

In the 2021 legislative session, [Public Act No. 21-99](#) raised the allowable age for testing through the GED examination from 17 to 18-years-old. This change became effective on July 1, 2021. The Public Act states in part:

*Sec. 11. (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner, or (2) who (A) is eighteen years of age or older and has been officially withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-184, as amended by this act, and (B) presents to the commissioner evidence demonstrating educational qualifications which the commissioner deems equivalent to those required for graduation from a public high school. Application for such a diploma shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the commissioner provided, at the time of application to take the examination described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the applicant has been officially withdrawn from school, in accordance with section 10-184, as amended by this act, for at least six months and has been advised, in such manner as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other options for high school completion and other available educational programs. For good cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person who is seventeen years of age to apply to take the examination.*

As noted, Section 11 of Public Act 21-99 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to allow an eligible 17-year-old applicant to apply to take the GED examination for good cause. Recognizing as good cause the fact that there are many 17-year-olds who need to successfully complete the GED examination to apply to post-secondary education programs and/or pursue employment opportunities, the Commissioner wishes to exercise this authority, provided the individual making the request has been officially withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes for at least six months and has been advised of the other options for high school completion and other available educational programs.

The GED testing approval process for such 17-year-olds has remained unchanged. The applicant must provide an official withdrawal notice and proof of identity and Connecticut residency. The applicant will then be entered into the Connecticut Adult Reporting System and be issued a

unique student identification number. All potential GED applicants must also create an account through GED.com. Authorized GED testing centers will approve students for testing after local GED Registrars approve all necessary paperwork.

If you have additional questions, please contact [Sabrina.mancini@ct.gov](mailto:Sabrina.mancini@ct.gov). Thank you for everything you do to support the success of Connecticut's adult learners.

JDF/sm

cc: Sabrina Mancini