

Secondary Education**28-1-3****Policy**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall, within available appropriations, provide an array of services and supports to the adolescents in its care and the young adults who choose to remain with DCF.

Cross Reference: DCF Policy 21-3, Delivery of Services Using a Client's Preferred Method of Communication.

Secondary Education and General Equivalency Diploma (GED)

Youth who are committed as abused, neglected, uncared for or for whom the Commissioner is the statutory parent, shall be in full-time attendance in a secondary school (high school) program, adult high school credit diploma program or general equivalency diploma (GED) program unless the Commissioner waives the full-time requirement.

Adult high school or GED programs may be approved by the team in lieu of secondary school on a case-by-case basis in consult with Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Specialist and Unified School District (USD)-II Superintendent. Youth shall be required to complete the adult high school or GED program by age 21.

All youth shall be encouraged to remain in and graduate from secondary school. If it is in the best interest of the youth to pursue alternative means to secondary education completion, the Transitional Support Social Worker (TSS) shall seek prior approval from the USD-II Superintendent.

The TSS shall prepare a memorandum for approval of alternative secondary education completion and the following documents shall be included in the memorandum:

- school transcripts
- associated educational test scores
- GED practice and test scores
- anticipated post-secondary education or employment plan
- anticipated time frame for GED completion.

Youth who have been approved to attend a GED program shall be offered additional support services, to include tutoring, to complete the program within six months.

Cross Reference: Post-Secondary Education Policy and Practice; V.I.T.A.L. Practice Approach, Educational Planning

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Secondary Education**28-1-3****Secondary School Senior Year Expenses**

DCF shall provide financial assistance to a committed youth for their secondary school senior year expenses up to a maximum of \$1,000. To be eligible for this one-time expense, the youth shall be committed to DCF as abused, neglected or uncared for, or in Services Post Majority (SPM) and enrolled in any of the following:

- high school
- State of Connecticut Department of Education (SDE) private school
- alternative education program such as:
 - adult education
 - GED program
 - job corps

Approval or Denial for Senior Year Financing

A youth requesting secondary school senior year expense funds shall submit a request in writing to their assigned TSS with supporting documentation of the item(s) and the cost(s).

The TSS and social work supervisor shall review the request. All payments shall be subject to approval by the social work supervisor and the program supervisor.

If the request is approved, the TSS shall enter the payment into the DCF computer system. The TSS shall apply for a vendor number for the youth, if one has not already been created and funding shall be issued directly to the youth.

If funds are denied, the youth shall be notified of the right to an administrative hearing through the issuance of the DCF-800 "Notice of Proposed Denial, Suspension Reduction or Discontinuance of Department of Children and Families Benefits." If the youth is over the age of twenty-one, they are not eligible for a hearing as continuation in the program is at the sole discretion of the Commissioner and within available funds.