

# Chapter 131-48 WAC

## CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCE

### WAC

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**WAC 131-48-010 Authority.** The authority for this chapter is RCW 28B.50.912 which authorizes the state board for community and technical colleges to adopt rules governing the eligibility of persons sixteen years of age or older to take the general educational development (GED) test subject to rules adopted by the state board of education.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.50 RCW. 98-15-008, § 131-48-010, filed 7/2/98, effective 8/2/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-010, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-020 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to set forth policies and procedures governing the administration of the GED test and the issuance of certificates of educational competence for persons who have not graduated from high school and are not enrolled in a regular or alternative high school program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-020, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-030 Certificate of educational competence.** As used in this chapter, the term "certificate of educational competence" means a certificate issued jointly by the state board for community and technical colleges and the superintendent of public instruction which indicates that the holder thereof has attained standard scores at or above the minimum proficiency level prescribed by the state board for community and technical colleges on the general educational development (GED) test, which is a measure of high school equivalency in the areas of writing skills, social studies, science, reading skills, and mathematics.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-030, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-040 General educational development test—Definition.** As used in this chapter, the term "general educational development test" means the most recent general educational development test as determined by the authorizing agency.

(9/18/07)

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.50 RCW. 98-15-008, § 131-48-040, filed 7/2/98, effective 8/2/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-040, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-050 Minimum proficiency level—Definition.** Minimum proficiency level in Washington state is that set by GED Testing Service, part of the American Council on Education.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.536. 07-19-100, § 131-48-050, filed 9/18/07, effective 10/19/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-050, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-060 Official GED testing center—Definition.** As used in this chapter, the term "official GED testing center" means public or private agencies which have agreed to comply with the provisions of this chapter and with policies and regulations of the GED Testing Service, and which have been designated by the state board for community and technical colleges, administrator of the GED testing program to administer the general educational development test. Additional official GED testing centers and local GED examiners shall be approved by the state administrator of the GED testing program at the state board for community and technical colleges when the following have been documented:

- (1) Need for a new testing site in a specific region or location;
- (2) Need for new or replacement examiner at a testing center;
- (3) Commitment of the governing board or, if none, the chief official of the proposed new testing center to meet all testing center requirements described in the *GED Examiner's Manual* published by GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education; and
- (4) Availability of testing center personnel who meet the qualifications specified in the *GED Examiner's Manual* published by the GED Testing Service as determined by the authorizing agency.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.50 RCW. 98-15-008, § 131-48-060, filed 7/2/98, effective 8/2/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-060, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-070 Restrictions on use of general educational development tests.** GED tests are designed and validated to enable persons who did not graduate from high school to earn a GED credential. Permission to use the GED tests or test results for other purposes must be obtained from the Commission on Educational Credit or GED Testing Service staff. Misuses of the tests include, but are not limited to using a GED test:

- (1) For the purposes of grade placement or promotion;
- (2) As measures of student progress in instructional programs;
- (3) As means of awarding academic credit (e.g., Carnegie units);

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(4) As means for awarding alternative credentials to currently enrolled high school students; or

(5) As means of awarding high school diplomas or credentials.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-070, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-080 Compliance with rules.** Testing centers shall comply with the requirements of the testing program, and administer GED tests only to those who have reached the age of nineteen unless an applicant who is sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen years of age has been adjudged by a school district official in accordance with rules of the state board of education to have a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-080, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-090 Annual contracts.** The annual contract between official testing centers, SBCTC and the GED Testing Service shall provide assurances that all state and national requirements shall be met. Failure to meet any requirement may result in cancellation of the approval and authorization of a public or private agency to act as an official GED testing center.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-090, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-100 Eligibility to take the GED test.** The following individuals shall be eligible to take the general educational development test in official GED testing centers, provided that they are not enrolled in public, private, or home-based instruction of high school or a high school completion program at the time the test is administered:

(1) Any person age nineteen or over who has not graduated from a public or private high school.

(2) Any person between the ages of sixteen and nineteen who has not graduated from a public or private high school and who has been adjudged by a school district in accordance with rules of the state board of education to have a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school education program.

(3) Any student age sixteen or over who has completed an education center individual student program in accordance with the provisions of chapter 392-185 WAC.

(4) Any person between the ages of sixteen and nineteen who has not graduated from a public or private high school, and who has completed a program of home-based instruction in compliance with RCW 28A.225.010(4) as certified by the written and notarized statement of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who provided the home-based instruction.

(5) Any person who is an active member of the military, national guard, or reserves and has not received a high school diploma.

(6) Adjudicated youth under the director of prisons, jails, detention centers, parole and probation offices, and other corrections facilities while enrolled in school if so ordered by a court or officer of the court.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.50 RCW. 98-15-008, § 131-48-100, filed 7/2/98, effective 8/2/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-100, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-110 Eligibility for award of certificate of educational competence.** The certificate of educational competence shall be awarded jointly by the state board for community and technical colleges and the superintendent of public instruction to persons who achieve the minimum proficiency level on the general educational development test and who meet the following:

(1) Are residents of Washington state; and

(2) Are nineteen years of age or older on the date of issuance; or

(3) Have been adjudged by a district as possessing a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school education program.

(4) Have completed a program of home-based instruction in compliance with RCW 28A.225.010(4) and chapter 28A.220 RCW.

(5) Are active members of the military, national guard, or reserves.

(6) Are adjudicated youth under the director of prisons, jails, detention centers, parole and probation offices, and other corrections facilities and so ordered by a court or officer of the court.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-110, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-120 Identification necessary to take the GED test.** All persons taking the GED test must provide picture identification utilizing one of the following:

(1) State-issued driver's license or a state-issued identification card with a photograph.

(2) United States passport.

(3) Certificate of United States citizenship.

(4) Certificate of naturalization.

(5) Unexpired foreign passport.

(6) Alien registration card with photograph.

(7) Armed forces identification card.

(8) Other forms of comparable identification which the GED examiner judges to be credible including, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

(a) Other forms of picture identification;

(b) Birth certificates in combination with other sources that confirm identity; and

(c) Confirmation of identity by a law enforcement, social service, or penal agency.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-120, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-130 Application form for certificate of educational competence.** The state board for community and technical colleges shall supply each official GED testing center with forms for applicants to request certificates of educational competence. Such forms shall request data necessary for processing of the application, including the applicant's scores on the GED test certified by an appropriate official of the GED testing center, the applicant's Social Security number and such additional information as the state board for community and technical colleges administrator for GED testing program deems necessary for any authorized research project associated with the implementation or administration of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-130, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]

**WAC 131-48-140 Effect of certificate of educational competence.** The award by the state board for community and technical colleges and superintendent of public instruction of a certificate of educational competence shall not preclude such persons from returning to high school to obtain a regular high school diploma if changes in the person's personal situation allow completion of a regular high school education program. However, the GED certificate or test scores may not be used as a means of awarding academic credit (e.g., Carnegie units) or as part or all of the requirements for completing the regular high school diploma.

Receipt of a certificate of educational competence also shall not preclude such persons from enrolling in an adult high school completion program at one of the state's community or technical colleges. However, the GED certificate or test scores may not be used as a means of awarding academic credit or as part or all of the requirements for completing the adult high school completion program and receiving the adult high school diploma.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.915. 93-22-006, § 131-48-140, filed 10/21/93, effective 11/21/93.]