



TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Paul Pate  
Secretary of State of Iowa  
State Capitol Building  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit:

House File 473, an Act relating to high school equivalency programs and assessments and including effective date provisions

The above House File is hereby approved this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

cc: Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House



House File 473

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS AND ASSESSMENTS  
AND INCLUDING EFFECTIVE DATE PROVISIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 259A.1, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

**259A.1 ~~Tests~~ Assessment of competency.**

The department of education shall cause to be made available for qualified individuals a high school equivalency diploma. The diploma shall be issued on the basis of ~~satisfactory demonstrated competence as shown by tests covering~~ in all of the following core areas: reading, language arts, literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Sec. 2. Section 259A.2, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

**259A.2 Age Application requirements.**

1. Every applicant ~~must~~ shall have attained the age of eighteen years, ~~be a nonhigh~~ have not graduated from high school graduate, and not be currently enrolled in a secondary school. ~~However, an~~

2. An applicant is not eligible for ~~the~~ a high school equivalency diploma until after the class in which the applicant was enrolled has graduated from high school.

3. Application shall be made to a high school equivalency program or testing center approved by the department of education, accompanied by an application fee in an amount prescribed by the department.

4. ~~The test~~ Test scores shall be forwarded by the scorer of the test to the department of education.

5. Evidence that an applicant demonstrates competence as required under section 259A.1 shall be made available to the department of education by the high school equivalency program for verification purposes.

Sec. 3. Section 259A.3, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

**259A.3 Notice and fee.**

Any applicant who has ~~achieved~~ demonstrated competence in the minimum passing core areas under standards as established by the department, and approved adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section 259A.5, shall be issued a high school equivalency diploma by the department of education upon payment of an additional amount determined in rules adopted by the state board of education to cover the actual costs of the production and distribution of the diploma. The state board of education may also by rule establish a fee for the issuance or verification of a transcript which shall be based on the actual costs of the production or verification of a transcript.

Sec. 4. Section 259A.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

**259A.5 Rules — duties.**

1. The director of the department of education shall ~~adopt tests~~ prescribe assessments, definitions of terms, and forms and resources as necessary for the administration of this chapter.

2. The state board of education shall adopt rules under chapter 17A to carry out this chapter. Any rules adopted relating to demonstrations of competence for purposes of this chapter shall require such demonstrations to be equivalent to or of greater rigor than those required for high school graduation, and such demonstrations shall include but are not limited to a test battery, credit-based measures, and attainment of other academic credentials.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

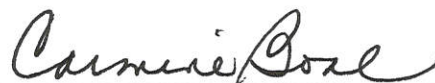


LINDA UPMEYER  
Speaker of the House



JACK WHITVER  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 473, Eighty-seventh General Assembly.



CARMINE BOAL  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved April 20, 2017



TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
Governor