

## CHAPTER 85

### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMAS — APPLICATION AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS — ASSESSMENTS

H.F. 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.

Approved April 20, 2017