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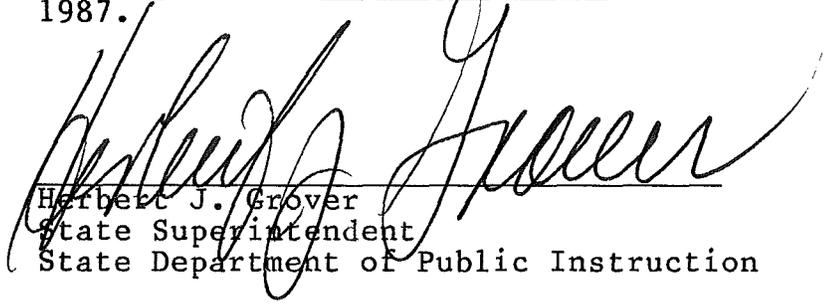
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Revisor of Statutes  
Bureau

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION) SS

I, State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction and custodian of the official records of said department, do hereby certify that the annexed rule relating to high school equivalency diplomas and certificates of general educational development was duly approved and adopted by this Department on July 1, 1988.

I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this Department and the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Department at General Executive Facility (GEF) 3, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, in the city of Madison, this 16th day of December, 1987.

  
Herbert J. Grover  
State Superintendent  
State Department of Public Instruction

DEC 16 1987

Revisor of Statutes  
Bureau

**ORDER OF THE  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
REPEALING AND RECREATING RULES**

- 1           The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction repeals and recreates ch. PI 5,  
2 relating to high school equivalency diplomas.

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**ANALYSIS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Statutory authority: ss. 115.29 (4) and 227.11, Stats.

Statute interpreted: s. 115.29 (4), Stats.

In 1960, the department promulgated ch. PI 5, relating to high school equivalency diplomas. This chapter is now obsolete and in need of revision for the following reasons:

1. The general educational development test, in and of itself, is no longer viewed as equivalent to a high school diploma by the military services, the University of Wisconsin system, an increasing number of programs within the VTAE system, and an increasing number of employers.
2. In 1984 and 1985, the legislature enacted the following statutes:
  - a. Section 118.33, Stats., requires all pupils graduating after September 1, 1988, to have completed 4 credits in English, 3 in social studies, 2 in mathematics, 2 in science, 1.5 in physical education and .5 in health. The statute also recommends that school districts require pupils to complete an additional 8.5 credits in elective subjects. This statute clearly establishes the standards for a high school diploma.
  - b. Section 118.153, Stats., requires all school districts to identify children at risk and develop a plan for meeting their needs. The goal of this statute is to encourage children who might otherwise drop out of school to remain in school and earn a high school diploma.
  - c. Section 121.02 (1) (m), Stats., requires school boards to provide all pupils with access to an education for employment program. This statute recognizes the need to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and experience which they will need when they enter the world of work after graduation from high school or completion of post-secondary education.

These rules encourage pupils to remain in school, while providing adults with an opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma based on the requirements of the high school graduation standards and assessment of employment skills and career awareness. The rules will:

1. Require that a person must be at least 18 years, 6 months of age, or that his or her high school class must have graduated in order to receive a high school equivalency

diploma. Exceptions to this age requirement will allow 17-year-old incarcerated youths, or youths who have been formally waived from attending school for at least one year, or are enrolled in a program approved by the state superintendent, to take the GED test but the certificate or diploma will not be issued until they meet the age eligibility requirements.

2. Require all persons, prior to applying for the high school equivalency diploma, to complete an individual counseling session which will assess the person's reading level and career interests and aptitudes, and discuss the requirements, expectations, benefits and limitations of the high school equivalency diploma and the various options for earning it.
3. Provide 5 options for earning a high school equivalency diploma:

- a. Passing the GED test and meeting additional requirements in health, citizenship and employability skills. In reviewing the knowledge which the GED tests measure, the department has determined that health and citizenship (state and local government), which are required by the high school graduation standards, are not adequately covered by the GED tests. Further, since most persons need a high school equivalency diploma to obtain meaningful employment, it is essential that employment acquisition and retention skills be attained. (The employability skills requirement shall be waived for persons 55 years of age or older at their request.)

The department will issue a certificate of general educational development to persons who earn passing scores on the GED test, but do not wish to meet the additional health, citizenship and employability skills requirements.

- b. Attainment of credits. This option is most closely related to completion of an actual high school program of study. Persons who attain the 22 high school credits required by this option may be eligible for, or missing only a few credits for, a diploma from their local school district. If the person is not able to obtain a diploma from the school district, he or she may be granted a high school equivalency diploma from the state superintendent.
- c. Post-secondary Education. Persons who complete a full year of post-secondary education may be issued a high school equivalency diploma. This option requires the completion of 24 semester or 32 quarter credits of post-secondary education, which must include credits in any area of study (except physical education) in which the person did not meet the high school graduation requirements. For example, a person who earned 2 credits each in math, science, English, and social studies, and 0.5 in health during high school, would be required to include course work in English and social studies in the post-secondary study.
- d. Foreign degree or diploma. This option allows persons who completed the equivalent of high school or post-secondary study in another country, to obtain a United States credential.
- e. Completion of a program approved by the state superintendent. This option will allow VTAE districts, colleges, universities, and community-based organi-

zations to request approval of programs which will lead to high school equivalency diplomas under this section. The rules specify that the programs must be based on the high school graduation standards and include employability skills training and/or assessment.

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SECTION 1. PI 5 is repealed and recreated to read:

PI 5

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMAS AND

CERTIFICATES OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PI 5.01 INTENT STATEMENT. (1) Under s. 115.29 (4), Stats., the state superinten-

dent may issue a high school equivalency diploma to a person who, in the state superintendent's judgement, has presented satisfactory evidence of having completed a recognized high school course of study or its equivalent; and the state superintendent may establish the standards by which high school graduation equivalency may be determined. The purpose of the high school equivalency diploma is to provide a credential to adults who did not graduate from high school and are unable to receive a high school diploma from their school district of residence, but are able to demonstrate attainment of credits, knowledge, and skills that are equivalent to those which would be attained in a high school program of study. This chapter sets forth criteria for determining that equivalency, based on s. 118.33, Stats., the high school graduation standards, and s. 121.02 (1)(m), Stats., the education for employment standard. The age eligibility requirements are intended to aid school districts in serving children at risk by discouraging youths from dropping out of school to pursue the high school equivalency diploma.

(2) This chapter also provides for the granting of a certificate of general educational development to a person who achieves passing scores, as determined by the state superintendent, on the general educational development test but has not met the additional requirements for the high school equivalency diploma.

1        PI 5.02 DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

2            (1) "Certificate of general educational development" means the certificate granted  
3 to a person who has achieved a passing score on the general educational development test.

4            (2) "College" or "university" means an institution which is accredited on a degree  
5 granting level by an accrediting agency which is listed by the United States department of  
6 education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

7            (3) "Community-based organization" means a private nonprofit organization which is  
8 representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and which  
9 provides educational and job training services.

10           (4) "Course" means study which has the fundamental purposes of developing the  
11 knowledge, concepts, and skills in a subject; and evaluation of the degree of attainment of  
12 the knowledge, concepts and skills.

13           (5) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of public instruction.

14           (6) "General educational development test" means the test developed by the  
15 American council on education and administered in Wisconsin at testing sites approved by  
16 the state superintendent and the American council on education.

17           (7) "High school credit" means the credit given for successful completion of a school  
18 term of study in one course in the high school grades that meets daily for a normal class  
19 period or the equivalent in time, or a high school level correspondence course, or a high  
20 school level course offered in a VTAE district or college or university program.

21           (8) "High school diploma" means the diploma granted by a public or private high  
22 school to a person who has successfully completed the program of study required by the  
23 public school board or private high school.

24           (9) "High school equivalency diploma" means the diploma granted by the state  
25 superintendent under s. 115.29 (4), Stats., and this chapter.

1 (10) "Post-secondary credit" means the credit given for successful completion of a  
2 course in a college, university, or VTAE district which meets requirements for the institu-  
3 tion's post-secondary certificate, diploma, or associate, bachelors' or advanced degree.

4 (11) "State superintendent" means the Wisconsin state superintendent of public  
5 instruction.

6 (12) "VTAE district" means a vocational, technical and adult education district  
7 established under s. 38.02, Stats.

8 **PI 5.03 ELIGIBILITY.** No person may be granted a high school equivalency diploma  
9 or certificate of general educational development unless that person verifies in writing  
10 that he or she:

11 (1) Is a resident of Wisconsin for voting purposes, or has lived in Wisconsin for at  
12 least 10 days, or is a migrant worker, as defined in s. 103.90(5)(a), Stats., or is the child of  
13 a migrant worker.

14 (2) Is at least 18 years and 6 months of age, or that the class with which the person  
15 entered grade 9 has graduated from high school.

16 (3) Has not graduated from high school and is not enrolled in any public or private  
17 high school.

18 (4) Has completed a counseling session or sessions provided by a high school, VTAE  
19 district, community-based organization, college, university, psychologist licensed  
20 by the department or the department of regulation and licensing, or a school counselor  
21 licensed by the department. The sessions shall include all of the following:

22 (a) Assessment of the person's reading level and career interests and aptitudes.

23 (b) Discussion of the options available to the individual regarding completion of high  
24 school, the high school equivalency diploma, and the certificate of general educational  
25 development, and the requirements, expectations, benefits and limitations of each option.

26 (c) Development of a plan for completion of one of the options discussed, and sub-  
27 sequent activities necessary to work toward an identified goal, career or occupation.

1           **PI 5.04 CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** (1) The  
2 state superintendent shall grant a certificate of general educational development to a  
3 person who meets the requirements under s. PI 5.03 and completes the general educational  
4 development test with a passing score on each subtest and a passing aggregate score as  
5 determined by the state superintendent.

6           (2) (a) Except as provided under par. (b), no person may take the general  
7 educational development test unless the person is at least 18 years and 6 months of age or  
8 the class with which the person entered grade 9 has graduated from high school.

9           (b) The state superintendent may permit a person who meets the requirements  
10 under s. PI 5.03 (1), (3) and (4) and who is at least 17 years of age to take the general  
11 educational development test if one of the following applies:

12           1. The person is or has been incarcerated in a correctional institution and has the  
13 written recommendation of the person responsible for the educational program in the  
14 correctional institution; or

15           2. The person provides written verification that he or she was excused from  
16 attending school under s. 118.15 (1) (c), Stats., at least one year prior to the date of taking  
17 the general educational development test and has written permission to take the test from  
18 his or her parent or legal guardian; or

19           3. The person provides written verification that he or she was excused from  
20 attending school under s. 118.15 (1) (c), Stats., is enrolled in a program approved under  
21 s. PI 5.09, and has written permission to take the test from his or her parent or legal  
22 guardian.

23           (c) A person who takes the test under par. (b) may not be granted the certificate of  
24 general educational development until he or she is eligible under s. PI 5.03 (2).

1           PI 5.05 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED ON PASSING OF THE  
2           GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST WITH ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS  
3           IN CITIZENSHIP, HEALTH, CAREER AWARENESS AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS.

4           The state superintendent shall grant a high school equivalency diploma to a person who  
5           meets the requirements of s. PI 5.03 and all of the following:

6           (1) Has completed the general educational development test with a passing score on  
7           each subtest and a passing aggregate score as determined by the state superintendent.

8           (2) (a) Has successfully completed 0.5 high school credit in health under s. 118.33  
9           (1) (a), Stats.; or

10           (b) Has successfully completed a course in health approved by the state superin-  
11           tendent. A course may be approved if it is taught by a person who is licensed by the  
12           department or the state VTAE board to teach health or health occupations, and if it  
13           includes at least 30 hours of instruction in mental and emotional, personal, family, com-  
14           munity and environmental health; or

15           (c) Has received a passing score on a test in health administered by the state super-  
16           intendent.

17           (3) (a) Has successfully completed 3 high school credits in social studies under  
18           s. 118.33, (1) (a) Stats.; or

19           (b) Has successfully completed a course in citizenship approved by the state super-  
20           intendent. A course may be approved if it is taught by a person who is licensed by the  
21           department or the state VTAE board to teach social studies and if it includes at least 30  
22           hours of instruction in the forms, funding and function of local, state and national govern-  
23           ment; principles of constitutional government; federalism; basic rights and responsibilities  
24           of citizenship, including ways to participate in the political process; and influence of  
25           government on the economy; or

1 (c) Has received a passing score on a test in citizenship administered by the state  
2 superintendent.

3 (4) Has attained employability skills, including skills in job seeking, applying for  
4 work, retaining a job, and self-development and awareness skills. The applicant shall  
5 provide written verification of attainment of these skills from a high school, VTAE dis-  
6 trict, community-based organization, college, university, psychologist licensed by the  
7 department or by the department of regulation and licensing, or a school counselor  
8 licensed by the department. This requirement shall be waived for a person who is 55 years  
9 of age or older at his or her written request.

10 (5) Has completed instruction in career awareness, including instruction in setting  
11 short-term and long-term career goals. The applicant shall provide written verification of  
12 completion of the instruction from a high school, VTAE district, community-based  
13 organization, college, university, or psychologist licensed by the department or by the  
14 department of regulation and licensing, or a school counselor licensed by the department.  
15 This requirement shall be waived for a person who is 55 years of age or older at his or her  
16 written request.

17 **PI 5.06 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED ON ATTAINMENT OF**  
18 **HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS.** (1) The state superintendent shall grant a high school equiva-  
19 lency diploma to a person who meets the requirements of s. PI 5.03 and has completed at  
20 least 22 high school credits, including at least 4 in English or communications; 3 in social  
21 studies, including citizenship; 2 in mathematics; 2 in science; and 0.5 in health.

22 (2) Post-secondary credits shall be accepted by the state superintendent in meeting  
23 the requirements under sub. (1). A post-secondary course which grants 3 semester credits  
24 or 4 quarter credits is equivalent to one high school credit.

25 (3) The applicant shall provide certified transcripts from public or private high  
26 schools, VTAE districts, colleges, or universities to document completion of the credits.

NOTE: Persons who meet the requirements of this section may be eligible for a high school diploma and should contact their school district of residence to determine if they meet the school board requirements for the school district high school diploma.

1           **PI 5.07 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED ON POST-SECONDARY**

2           **EDUCATION.** The state superintendent shall grant a high school equivalency diploma to a  
3 person who meets the requirements of s. PI 5.03 and has earned at least 24 post-secondary  
4 semester credits or 32 post-secondary quarter credits, including credit in each subject in  
5 which the person did not complete the high school credits required under s. 118.33 (1) (a),  
6 Stats., except physical education. Only post-secondary credit may be counted in meeting  
7 the credits required under this section. The applicant shall provide certified transcripts  
8 from a public or private high school to document completion of requirements of s. 118.33  
9 (1) (a), Stats.; and from colleges, universities or VTAE districts to document completion of  
10 the post-secondary credits.

11           **PI 5.08 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED ON A FOREIGN**

12           **DIPLOMA OR DEGREE.** The state superintendent shall grant a high school equivalency  
13 diploma to a person who meets the requirements of s. PI 5.03 and all of the following:

14           (1) Presents a high school diploma or the equivalent or a degree from an institution  
15 of higher learning earned in another country and a certified transcript attesting to the  
16 completion of the program of study required for the diploma or degree. If the transcript  
17 is not in English, the applicant shall also provide a certified translation.

18           (2) Is a United States citizen or meets both of the following requirements:

19           (a) Documents that he or she is able to speak, read and write words in ordinary usage  
20 in the English language as required for United States citizenship under 8 USC 1423.

21           (b) Has successfully completed a course in citizenship approved by the state super-  
22 intendent; has received a passing score on a test in citizenship administered by the state  
23 superintendent; or documents that he or she has satisfied the requirement for knowledge

1 of United States history and forms of government required for United States citizenship  
2 under 8 USC 1423.

3 **PI 5.09 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED ON COMPLETION OF A**  
4 **PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.** (1) A VTAE district,

5 college, university, or community-based organization may submit a plan to the state  
6 superintendent requesting approval of a program for determining high school equivalency.  
7 The program shall be designed to determine whether a person has attained the knowledge  
8 and skills generally associated with graduation from high school, including employability  
9 skills, career awareness, citizenship, and each of the subject areas under s. 118.33 (1) (a),  
10 Stats., except physical education. The plan shall include all of the following:

11 (a) A description of any courses, training, and counseling which will be included in  
12 the proposed program, including the number of hours of instructional time, if any; and a  
13 description of the methods of evaluation or assessment that will be used to determine the  
14 person's knowledge and skills.

15 (b) The qualifications of the professional staff members who will be involved in the  
16 program.

17 (c) A description of any groups, such as older adults, minorities, displaced home-  
18 makers or displaced workers, which might be effectively served by the proposed program,  
19 and a description of how the program will meet the special needs of these groups.

20 (d) A plan for evaluating the proposed program to determine its effectiveness in  
21 assessing high school equivalency.

22 (2)(a) The state superintendent may approve the program for an initial period of  
23 time, not to exceed one year. At the end of the initial approval period, if the state super-  
24 intendent determines that the program has successfully measured attainment of high  
25 school equivalency, as described in sub. (1) (intro.), he or she may grant continuing

1 approval, subject to annual reviews. The state superintendent may withdraw approval of a  
2 program at any time, if the program does not meet all of the requirements of this section  
3 and of the approved plan.

4 (b) The state superintendent shall approve or disapprove the application in writing.  
5 If the application is not approved, the reasons for disapproval shall be specified in the  
6 written disapproval. An agency under sub. (1) which has been denied approval may, within  
7 30 days of receipt of the written disapproval:

8 1. Resubmit the application with additional information or modifications in the  
9 proposed program, or,

10 2. Request, in writing, a review of the disapproval and an opportunity to meet with  
11 the department concerning the reasons for disapproval. If a request is made under this  
12 subdivision, the department shall grant the request and shall issue a final decision in  
13 writing following the review and any requested meeting.

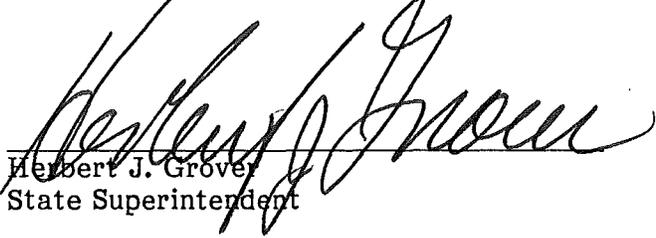
14 (3) The state superintendent shall grant a high school equivalency diploma to a  
15 person who meets the requirements of s. PI 5.03 and provides written verification that he  
16 or she has satisfactorily completed an approved program under this section.

NOTE: The department will maintain a listing of general educational development testing sites and of programs which meet the requirements of this chapter. The list may be obtained at no charge by writing to the Department of Public Instruction, Division for Instructional Services, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

17 SECTION 2. INITIAL APPLICABILITY. A person who completes at least one  
18 subtest of the general educational development test with a passing score before July 1,  
19 1988, and who completes all subtests of the general educational development test with  
20 passing scores on or before June 30, 1989, may be issued a high school equivalency  
21 diploma. By September 1, 1988, each general educational development testing site in  
22 Wisconsin shall submit to the department a list of all persons who intend to apply for a  
23 high school equivalency diploma under this provision.

The rules contained in this order shall take effect on July 1, 1988.

Dated this 16th day of December, 1987.

  
Herbert J. Groves  
State Superintendent

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