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691 - GED TESTING

GED HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The State Department of Education will not authorize individuals under the age of 19 to take the G.E.D. exam unless the high school principal of the district in which the student resides agrees to a waiver of the age requirement.

Waivers have been authorized from time-to-time by the high school principal for 17 and 18 year olds who have dropped out of school and as a matter of course pursuant to state regulations in absence of a school district policy.

The granting of a waiver and the passing of a G.E.D. permits a high school drop-out to receive a high school equivalency diploma and enables this person to enter college, vocational training, or the military. While this makes it easier for a high school drop-out to enter these areas, it also makes the decision to drop-out an easier one to make.

Based on Detroit Lakes experiences with drop-outs, the establishment of the Alternative School, and related considerations, the Board of Education believes the adoption of a policy prohibiting the granting of G.E.D. age waivers by District #22 students (except in the case of hardship) will reduce the drop-out rate of Detroit Lakes High School age students.

PHILOSOPHY

It is the belief of the Board of Education of Independent School District #22 that every student should be supplied with a core of general education. That core will supply them with the opportunity to acquire basic competencies, as well as broader elective experiences, while pursuing completion of the planned educational experiences of the school district. It is also the belief of the Board of Education that the acquisition of a high school diploma as a result of the completion of requirements established by the Board is important and valuable and in the best interest of students.

POLICY

It is, therefore, the policy of the Board of Education of Independent School District #22 not to grant requests for age waivers for the General Education Diploma (GED) or for enrollment in post-secondary programs for non-high school graduates.

HARDSHIP EXCEPTION

The Board reserves to itself the right to review the merits of extreme hardship cases upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.