

A student who is sixteen (16) years of age or older but under nineteen (19) years of age and who has a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school program may make application, at the option of the applicant, to the resident district or the school last attended in the state of Washington for a certificate of educational competency. The application must be signed by the student's parent and/or guardian and shall include the recommendation of a staff review committee and the Superintendent. Students take the general educational development test in order to receive a certificate of educational competence. The term, "general educational development test" means the most recent general educational development test of the American Council on Education.

Causes considered shall be those indicating that withdrawal would be in the student's best interests, including any one of the following:

1. Personal problems which seriously impair the student's ability to make reasonable progress toward high school graduation,
2. A financial crisis which directly affects the student and necessitates the student's employment during school hours,
3. The lack of curriculum and instruction which constitute appropriate learning experiences for the student, and
4. The inability or failure of the school of attendance to adjust its program for the individual or otherwise make arrangements for enrollment in a program in a manner which enables the student to advance toward graduation with reasonable progress and success.
5. The student has been home-schooled and has essentially completed high school work.

The District shall make provisions for an appeal process for any student who feels that the denial to apply for a certificate of educational competency was unwarranted.

Certificates of educational competency shall be awarded by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Legal References:

	RCW	
	28A.205.030	Reentry of prior dropouts into common schools, rules—
		Eligibility for GED test
	28A.305.190	Certificate of educational competence, rules for issuance
	WAC	
	Chapter 180-96	Certificate of educational competence
	Chapter 131048	Certificate of educational competence (Community and Technical Colleges)
Adopted:	June 16, 1986	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
Revised:	April 20, 2010	North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors