

Instruction

**SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (AHSEP)**

With ever-increasing academic standards and expectations, a higher number of students are finding themselves in need of an educational alternative to the traditional high school curriculum. Considering this, the Belfast Central School District (District) will encourage and assist all students in completing the requirements necessary to earn a New York State high school diploma.

AHSEP is intended for students between the ages of 16-17 years old who have not yet completed at least 12.5% of the credits needed to graduate multiplied by the number of years they have spent in academic grades 9 through 12. Should a student be deemed appropriate for participation, the student is granted the opportunity to enroll in AHSEP. The AHSEP is in accordance with the alternative high school equivalency program requirements as specified in Chapter 8, Section I00.7(b) of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education. As such, a student enrolled in the AHSEP performs a combined half-day vocational course of study with a half-day general academic/physical education course of study, for a period of two academic years. The vocational aspect of the AHSEP is performed in conjunction with the regional Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES.) This policy has been created to address the status of an individual enrolled in AHSEP as a student of the District and the concomitant rights and privileges to which this individual may therefore be entitled.

- I. A student enrolled in the AHSEP will remain identified as a District student and as such will be afforded certain privileges enumerated below.<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled in the AHSEP may:
  - Participate in the District's extracurricular activities.
  - Participate in the District's extracurricular interscholastic athletic teams provided that the student is otherwise eligible to participate, see Board Policy #7420.
  - Participate in the District's extracurricular clubs and organizations.
  - Participate in the District's extracurricular social activities provided that the student is otherwise eligible to participate, see Board Policy #7410.
  - Receive District transportation services to and from school.
  - Receive access to District guidance services related to post-secondary educational opportunities. Receive access to District services related to employment location.
  - Receive recognition as an Alternative GED Program participant in a specific section of District's annual yearbook.
- II. Although a student enrolled in the AHSEP will remain identified as a District student and afforded the concomitant privileges enumerated above, said student shall also forego their respective academic class identification (e.g. "junior," "senior") and any corresponding privileges normally reserved for members of an identified academic class. Students enrolled in the AHSEP therefore waive their right to:
  - Participate in the District's regular curriculum commencement exercises. To fundraise for, or participate, in any class-specific activities.
  - To fundraise for, or attend, any class-specific trips.
  - To any class-status recognition in the District's annual yearbook (as per above, a student enrolled in the District's Alternative GED Program will be granted recognition in a specific section of the District's annual yearbook.)
  - Apply for any District-sponsored class-specific scholarships or accolades.

(Continued)

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**SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (AHSEP)  
(Continued)**

A student who is not fully participating in all aspects of the District's AHSEP will not be considered a District student and as such shall not be entitled to any of the enumerated privileges.

A student wishing to enroll in the AHSEP shall be required to sign, along with their parent(s)/guardians(s), a form indicating that they understand and accept their student status as participants in the AHSEP, and accordingly what student privileges shall be granted.

This form shall be required to be signed before the student is granted admission into the AHSEP.

**SUBJECT: ADULT HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (HSE)**

With ever-increasing importance upon the possession of a high-school diploma, a higher number of individuals are finding themselves in need of a high-school educational equivalency program. Considering this, the Belfast Central School District (District) will encourage and assist all individuals in completing the requirements necessary to earn a New York State high school equivalency diploma.

The District's HSE is intended for individuals who are at least 18 years old and who have not yet completed a high-school educational program, or who have not yet been awarded a New York State high school diploma. The District's HSE is in accordance with the adult high school equivalency program requirements as specified in Chapter 8, Section 100. 7(i) of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education. As such an individual who is enrolled as a student in the District's HSE performs a combined half-day vocational course of study with a half-day general academic course of study. The vocational aspect of the District's HSE is performed in conjunction with the regional Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES.) Upon successful completion of the District's HSE program, the student will receive a high school equivalency diploma or certificate.

This policy has been created to address the status of an individual enrolled in HSE as a student of the District and the concomitant rights and privileges to which they may therefore be entitled.

An individual enrolled in the District's HSE will not be considered a student of the District. As such, said individual will not be granted any of the rights and privileges afforded to both students of the District and students enrolled in the District's Alternative High School Equivalency Program (AHSEP.)