

# UNDERAGE TESTING INFORMATION

Florida statute allows GED® testing for 16 and 17 year olds so long as they have filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to [Section 1003.21\(1\)\(c\), Florida Statutes](#).

When a candidate registers for the test and their date of birth indicates they are 16 or 17 years of age, they are automatically put in the Age Exception queue. Effective November 1, 2024, individuals must submit a signed and notarized underage testing form and proof of withdrawal from K-12 to the High School Equivalency (HSE) office for the Age Exception alert to be cleared and GED® tests scheduled.

## Steps to Clear Age Exception:

1. File a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to [Section 1003.21\(1\)\(c\), Florida Statutes](#).
2. Register for an account on [GED.com](#).
3. Complete the Underage Testing Form with parent or legal guardian signature and notary acknowledgement.
4. Submit the signed and notarized form and proof of withdrawal to the HSE office via email at [GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org](mailto:GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org) or via fax at 850-245-0990.

[Florida GED® Testing Program Underage Testing Form \(PDF\)](#)

The form must be signed by the testing candidate's parent or legal guardian and have notary acknowledgement. Incomplete forms will not be accepted for clearance to take the GED® tests. Pursuant to State Board [Rule 6A-6.0201, Florida Administrative Code](#), test scores, and any diplomas based on such scores, that are earned by someone under the age of 18 not in conformance with the rule will be invalidated.

You can [contact the school district representative](#), for the school district in which you live or attend school for assistance with completing the underage waiver form.

If you have any questions about the underage testing process, please contact the Florida GED® testing office at 850-245-0449 or via email at [GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org](mailto:GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org).

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The 2024 Florida Statutes (including 2025 Special Session C)

Title XLVIII

EARLY LEARNING-20 EDUCATION CODE

Chapter 1003

PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

View Entire Chapter

1003.21 School attendance.—

(1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as otherwise provided, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for admission to public kindergartens during that school year under rules adopted by the district school board.

(b) Any child who has attained the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the school year and who has been enrolled in a public school or who has attained the age of 6 years on or before September 1 and has satisfactorily completed the requirements for kindergarten in a private school from which the district school board accepts transfer of academic credit, or who otherwise meets the criteria for admission or transfer in a manner similar to that applicable to other grades, shall progress according to the district's student progression plan. However, nothing in this section shall authorize the state or any school district to oversee or exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of private schools or home education programs.

(c) A student who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. Public school students who have attained the age of 16 years and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the student and the student's parent. The school district shall notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. The student's certified school counselor or other school personnel shall conduct an exit interview with the student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to keep the student in school. The student's certified school counselor or other school personnel shall inform the student of opportunities to continue his or her education in a different environment, including, but not limited to, adult education, high school equivalency examination preparation,

and the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Program under s. 1004.933.

Additionally, the student shall complete a survey in a format prescribed by the Department of Education to provide data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students enrolled.

(d) Students who become or have become married and students who are pregnant shall not be prohibited from attending school. These students and students who are parents shall receive the same educational instruction or its equivalent as other students, but may voluntarily be assigned to a class or program suited to their special needs. Consistent with s. 1003.54, pregnant or parenting teens may participate in a teenage parent program. Pregnant students may attend alternative education programs or adult education programs, provided that the curriculum allows the student to continue to work toward a high school diploma.

(e) Consistent with rules adopted by the State Board of Education, children with disabilities who have attained the age of 3 years shall be eligible for admission to public special education programs and for related services. Children with disabilities younger than 3 years of age who are deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, orthopedically impaired, or other health impaired or who have experienced traumatic brain injury, have autism spectrum disorder, have established conditions, or exhibit developmental delays or intellectual disabilities may be eligible for special programs and may receive services in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Rules for the identification of established conditions for children birth through 2 years of age and developmental delays for children birth through 9 years of age or through the student's completion of grade 2, whichever occurs first, must be adopted by the State Board of Education.

(f) Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness and children who are known to the department, as defined in s. 39.0016, must have access to a free public education and must be admitted to school in the school district in which they or their families live. School districts shall assist such children in meeting the requirements of subsection (4) and s. 1003.22, as well as local requirements for documentation.

(2)(a) The State Board of Education may adopt rules under which students not meeting the entrance age may be transferred from another state if their parents have been legal residents of that state.

(b) Each district school board, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, shall adopt policies authorizing a parent to request and be granted permission for absence of a student from school for:

1. Religious instruction or religious holidays.
2. An appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to s. 393.17 for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

(3) The district school superintendent may authorize certificates of exemptions from school attendance requirements in certain situations. Students within the compulsory attendance age limits who hold valid certificates of exemption that have been issued by the superintendent shall be exempt from attending school. A certificate of exemption shall cease to be valid at the end of the school year in which it is issued.

(4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the principal shall require evidence that the child has attained the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a)2. The district school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any child who is being enrolled in public school and who the district school superintendent believes to be within the limits of compulsory attendance as provided for by law; however, the district school superintendent may not require evidence from any child who meets regular attendance requirements by attending a school or program listed in s. 1003.01(16)(b)-(e). If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

(a) A duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births;

(b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;

(c) An insurance policy on the child's life that has been in force for at least 2 years;

(d) A bona fide contemporary religious record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;

(e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;

(f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least 4 years prior to application, stating date of birth; or

(g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a public school physician, or, if these are not available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the district school board, which states that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct. Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness and children who are known to the department, as defined in s. 39.0016, shall be given temporary exemption from this section for 30 school days.

History.—s. 116, ch. 2002-387; s. 18, ch. 2006-74; s. 4, ch. 2006-301; s. 4, ch. 2008-204; s. 5, ch. 2009-35; s. 7, ch. 2009-164; s. 4, ch. 2013-89; s. 16, ch. 2014-20; s. 93, ch. 2016-10; s. 58, ch. 2017-116; s. 2, ch. 2018-134; s. 2, ch. 2022-24; s. 150, ch. 2023-8; s. 3, ch. 2024-161.



FLORIDA GED® TESTING PROGRAM



UNDERAGE TESTING FORM

This completed form and proof of withdrawal must be submitted to the Florida GED® Testing Office via email at GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org or by fax at 850-245-0990. If you have any questions, please email GEDagewaiver@fldoe.org or call 1-877-352-4331 (Florida calls only) or 850-245-0449.

The candidate must complete the registration process at http://ged.com prior to submitting this form to the Florida Department of Education.

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawing from (please circle one): School District, Home Education Program, or Private School

Name of School or School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement of Age Requirements for GED® Testing in Florida

Pursuant to section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, the minimum age to take the GED® tests to meet the requirements for a high school equivalency diploma is 16 years old so long as the candidate has filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c), F.S. Parents of home education students must file a written notice of termination upon completion of the home education program with the superintendent of the School District under s. 1002.41(1)(c), F.S.

I hereby certify that I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the parent or legal guardian of the candidate for GED® testing listed above and that they have withdrawn from school with my permission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Notary Acknowledgement

State of Florida, County of \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me by physical presence this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year) by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Parent or Legal Guardian).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Stamp

Personally Known \_\_\_\_\_ OR Produced Identification \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_