Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency

Adopted: 06/19/1984 | **Last Revised:** 02/03/2026 | **Last Reviewed**: 02/03/2026

The Board of Education desires that every student have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma through successful completion of district graduation requirements. However, when a student is unable to do so, the Board encourages completion of an alternative program that allows the student to obtain an equivalent certificate.

Eligible persons who pass the California Proficiency Program may receive a Certificate of Proficiency issued by the State Board of Education (SBE). Students must be age 16 or older and have been in the tenth grade for a year or who are currently enrolled in the final semester of tenth grade.

Eligible persons who pass an SBE approved general educational development test may obtain a High School Equivalency Certificate from the testing service. Individuals must be 18 years of age or older.

Interested persons shall register for the test directly with the testing service and pay the applicable fee. However, the fee shall be waived for a homeless or foster youth who is under age 25 years, meets all other registration requirements, and submits certification of homeless or foster youth status.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that district requirements relative to these alternatives to high school graduation are fulfilled.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
5 CCR 11530-11532.5 High school equivalency certificate
EDUCATION CODE
8400-48403 Compulsory continuation education
48410 Exemption from continuation education
48412 Certificate of proficiency
48413 Enrollment in continuation classes
48414 Reenrollment in district
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
WEBSITES
California Department of Education, California High School Equivalency FAQ https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
High School Equivalency Test https://hiset.ets.org/
General Educational Development Test https://ged.com/
California High School Proficiency Examination https://hiset.org/
California Department of Education, High School Equivalency Tests http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd

Website California Department of Education, California Proficiency Program
https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cp.asp

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