GED Implementation “Frequently Asked Questions”

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

1) Q: Are 18 year olds, currently residing in a high school setting part of the GED option?
   A: All 18 year olds residing in a high school must be a part of an option program in order to test.

2) Q: Exactly what does an Exemption from Compulsory Attendance mean?
   A: A release is a process defined in statute whereby a student may be exempt from compulsory attendance. A student’s exemption from compulsory attendance is to be reviewed twice annually.

3) Q: Who is responsible to review the exemption?
   A: The school (team) that signed the exemption.

4) Q: If a student is exempted from compulsory attendance, flunks the GED test and wants to return to the district, may he?
   A: Yes. A district may never refuse to provide instruction for a student under the age of 18.

5) Q: What is the purpose of an Exemption from Compulsory Attendance?
   A: An exemption enables a student to pursue other appropriate activities as determined by statute.

6) Q: If you exempt a 16/17 year old how are they counted on the High School Report? Are they a dropout?
   A: Yes, they are, however if they complete their GED within the same school year, they are considered a completer.

7) Q: Do students who go to the community college still count on the school district head count?
   A: Yes, if they are part of the GED Options Program. Not only do they count on the school district head count, but the referring high school is still responsible for this student.

8) Q: When is a student considered a dropout?
   A: 10 days consistently absent = removal from attendance roster and automatic release.

9) Q: Is an IEP and/or a Section 504 to be included on the referral form?
   A: Yes

10) Q: May home schools students simply walk in and be tested?
    A: No. Home-schooled students must participate in the GED Options Program through their local ESD in order to participate in the GED testing process.

11) Q: Home-schooled, walk-ins, street kids often do not know their reading level. What about a pre-screening test? Should the ESD do this?
    A: To access the GED Option Program, students must be enrolled in a school or registered at their local ESD as a home school student. Reading levels are during the interview process established at the local school or ESD.

12) Q: Do private schools have to apply to be an Options site?
    A: Yes

13) Q: What paperwork does a private high school have to turn into ODE?
    A: A private school may not issue an exemption from compulsory attendance, but a private school may apply to be a GED Options Site.
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14) **Q:** Part of the GED Options referral needs to include a release of information signature. With this signature, what information and to whom may be given out by the GED site?  
   **A:** The release of information signature allows the Community College to give out any information to the referring high school regarding the student’s progress, academic or behavioral. Test information may only be given out with a signed release.

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

15) **Q:** If student has an exemption from compulsory attendance does the community college receive funding from the school district for him?  
   **A:** Not from the high school or district.

16) **Q:** If the student goes to the community college with a referral form from an options approved school district does the community college get any money? How much?  
   **A:** This is determined by their agreement, but generally the cost of the program provided or 80% of basic school support (whichever is less).

17) **Q:** A student is referred to a community college and passes 4 tests but fails one. Six months later this student wants to retake the final test. May he?  
   **A:** The student has 3 years in which to pass all 5 tests.

18) **Q:** Do you grandfather in “exempted students” from the time prior to the GED Option?  
   **A:** No, students may only take part in the GED Option Program if they are enrolled in a GED Option approved school.

19) **Q:** Is it true those students who have a release form before the waivers still need a letter?  
   **A:** All students still on the public school rolls need a letter of referral. Students have never needed the district eligibility letter, but we need the document of their release or referral.

20) **Q:** Can a student be instructed at the community college if he is not part of the OPTION but has an exemption from the School District?  
   **A:** A student must have either an option referral form or an exemption form to participate in GED testing.

21) **Q:** Once a student is exempted from compulsory education is he to be treated like an 18 year old?  
   **A:** Yes

22) **Q:** The community college has an ADM contract with a specific district to provide GED instruction. Is it legal to have a prioritized waiting list based on these contracts?  
   **A:** Yes. This is how community colleges are able to ensure staff for GED instruction.

23) **Q:** Can a student change his mind? What if the student, in 5 months wants to go back to his school district?  
   **A:** A student may never be denied instruction by his home district while he is under the age of 18.

24) **Q:** If a student is exempted from compulsory attendance, goes to the community college and gets tested, may he receive instruction even though no money follows him?  
   **A:** If the community college wants to provide instruction they are free to do so.
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25) Q: Can students who have been exempted be tested?
A: Students who have been exempted may test anywhere and receive instruction anywhere.

26) Q: Referral allows instruction but does testing require an exemption?
A: Yes, or a waiver.

27) Q: Does the “Purple Bubble Sheet” mean a student may be tested or is the referral form also necessary?
A: Both the “Purple Bubble Sheet” and the referral form are required.

28) Q: How much do students pay for the actual test?
A: $25.00 or more, depending on the individual site.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

29) Q: Who is responsible for providing special education services for a student on an IEP who is receiving instruction at a community college GED program? The sending high school or the community college?
A: All students on an IEP must have had an IEP Transition Team meeting. The student is eligible to receive special education services from the community college. The instructional accommodations written in an IEP must follow the instruction provided but other services written in an IEP may be provided by either the community college or the high school. Ultimately, the referring high school is responsible for the provisions in an IEP to be met.

30) Q: Why would an ESD apply to become a GED Option Site?
A: To provide access for 16 & 17 year old home school students to be tested.

31) Q: Why can’t a home-schooled student get an exemption to take the GED tests from their local school district?
A: ESD’s are responsible for the oversight of home-schooled students. To obtain an exemption to test a home-schooled student must first be enrolled in a school district.

32) Q: What if a 16 or 17 year-old home-schooled student only wants an exemption from compulsory attendance?
A: The student must still enroll in the school district, then he/she may be exempted from compulsory attendance following the process outlined in statute and will be counted as a drop-out. He may then go to the community college to be tested.