

WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

BETTY IRELAND

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

Do Not Mark In This Box

2008 MAR 13 AM 2:37

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE  
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126

CITE AUTHORITY: W. Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W. Va. Code §18-2-5

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL \_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETIVE \_\_\_\_\_

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education  
v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988).

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 32

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Issuance of the State of West Virginia  
General Educational Development (GED®) Diploma Based Upon Passage of the  
GED Tests (2444.4)

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS July 1, 2008.

  
Jack McClanahan  
Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### **Policy Number and Title:**

Policy 2444.4  
Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®)  
Tests

### **Background:**

The General Educational Development (GED) Tests provide an average of over 5,000 West Virginians per year a method to document that they have acquired the academic skills equivalent to a high school education.

### **Proposals:**

Revisions are being proposed to:

"GED" is a registered trademark of the American Council on Education (ACE®). The first time the mark is used, it should include the registration symbol ®. This one time should suffice for the entire form/document/publication. As of June 30, 2008 all new and reprinted materials must comply with ACE guidelines.

Suspend the three year completion rule. Credits received in high school are not removed from a student's record; thus, forcing the student to start over acquiring credits. In addition, the GED candidate may take the expired scores to a neighboring state and continue testing. (See Section 4.4.)

Require individuals to pass the Official GED Practice Test (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor. Passing the OPT is a very good indication that the individual will pass the GED Tests and should increase the GED passing rate for WV. If passing scores are not achieved, free classes are offered to prepare in areas of weakness. (See Section 4.2)

Change terminology to match terminology used in the American Council on Education GED Testing Service Policy. (See Section 5.2.2.)

Suspend the requirement for the eighteen (18) year old candidate to be withdrawn from the regular classroom for three months. Since an eighteen (18) year old is an adult, he/she should only have to provide documentation that he/she has withdrawn from the regular classroom

and pass the OPT. (See Section 5.2.1.)

Require the seventeen (17) year old and the sixteen (16) year old to be withdrawn from the public school system for one month since this amount of time allows ample time for the seventeen (17) year old and the sixteen (16) year old GED candidate to decide to return to the regular classroom. Until sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds are required to remain in school or until the GED Option is adopted by the West Virginia Board of Education, a second opportunity to obtain a high school diploma should be available. In addition, obtaining a GED diploma helps counties to count the GED graduate as a completer rather than a dropout, thus aiding counties with their dropout rates. (See Section 5.3.)

Suspend the requirement for the seventeen (17) year old GED candidate to provide a statement on official letterhead from an employer, military recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED Tests since this requirement creates an obstacle that some cannot obtain because the individual lacks a high school diploma or GED. (See Section 5.3.1.)

Require the seventeen (17) year-old and the sixteen (16) year old GED candidates to pass the Official GED Practice Test (OPT). Sometimes the inability to pass the OPT will help make the decision for the candidate to return to school. (See Sections 5.3.2. and 5.4.3.)

Allow the Mountaineer Challenge Academy cadet to use the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's photo identification during the post-residential phase of the program by presenting the Mountaineer Challenge Academy transcript or a letter from the academy. (See Section 5.4.4.)

Allow GED candidates who are participating in a government program or in a state-operated institutional facility to continue testing once they leave the program. (See Section 5.8.)

Allow qualified personnel of a detention center or group care facility to access the educational needs of the child and to determine if the child should be allowed to take the GED. (See Section 5.7.2.)

Define how GED scores are confidential information.

Insert the word "replacement" copy of the diploma so that the GED graduate will know that the replacement diploma will not be a copy of the original diploma.

**Impact:**

Policy 2444.4 provides guidance, technical assistance and assurance of compliance with the American Council on Education's GED Testing Service requirements for the administration of the GED Tests. It includes changes in West Virginia's eligibility requirements for sixteen (16), seventeen (17), and eighteen (18) year olds, allows the GED candidate to continue testing after leaving a government program or a state-operated institutional facility, and allows qualified personnel at a detention center or group care facility to determine if the GED is the right prescription for the students placed in their care.

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**Response to Comments:**

Policy 2444.4 was placed on comment at the Board's December meeting. The comment period began on December 13, 2007 and ended on January 14, 2008. This policy was amended to modify age requirements and to meet guidelines of the American Council on Education (ACE®), General Educational Development (GED®) Testing Service. Twenty-three (23) individuals responded resulting in fifty-one (51) positive responses, eight (8) negative responses, seven (7) neutral responses, and one comment which did not reflect Policy 2444.4, for a total of 67 responses. One comment, from the GED Testing Service, was accepted and appropriate changes made throughout the policy.

It is recommended that **Policy 2444.4 be approved.**

**TITLE 126  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

2008 MAR 13 AM 2:37

**SERIES 32  
ISSUANCE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA GENERAL EDUCATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT (GED®) DIPLOMA  
BASED UPON PASSAGE OF THE GED TESTS (2444.4)**

**§126-32-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- The purpose of the State of West Virginia GED Diploma is to provide appropriate recognition of educational attainment to those individuals who have demonstrated that they have attained academic skills equivalent to those at the high school completion level by satisfactorily passing the GED Tests.

1.1.1. The GED Tests mirror the core content and performance standards reflected at the national and state levels and demonstrate the attainment of developed abilities acquired through completion of a four-year high school program of study (Woodward, Katherine S., Alignment of National and State Standards, A Report by the GED Testing Service. American Council on Education, GED Testing Service, 1999).

1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Constitution, Article XII, Section 2; W. Va. Code §18-2-5.

1.3. Filing Date. -- March 13, 2008.

1.4. Effective Date. -- July 1, 2008.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. This legislative rule amends W. Va. §126CSR32, West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) Policy 2444.4, Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests, filed February 13, 2004 and effective March 15, 2004.

**§126-32-2. State of West Virginia GED Diploma.**

2.1. The West Virginia Department of Education, hereinafter State Department, issues a State of West Virginia GED Diploma based upon satisfactory scores earned on the GED Tests. These tests are prepared by the General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS) as an agent of the American Council on Education. The State of West Virginia GED Diploma is issued only by the State Department.

**§126-32-3. Applying for Testing.**

3.1. Until such time as the West Virginia GED Testing program registration is centralized, all applicants must register for the GED Tests in person at least five business days prior to testing at the site designated by the local testing site.

3.2. First time applicants are required to complete the local GED Testing Orientation Seminar which includes completion of the demographic form, viewing of the calculator and alternate format video, calculator practice exercises, and the registration form.

3.3. A valid and current state-issued photo identification, i.e., driver's license, state alternative identification, military identification or a valid passport, with current name, birth date, and preferably a Social Security number will be required prior to and during all testing sessions. Failure to present applicable photo identification will result in a loss of testing privilege until such identification is presented. (See also Section 6.1.)

#### **§126-32-4. Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia GED Diploma.**

4.1. The State Department requires that applicants taking the GED Tests achieve a minimum passing score of 2250 or above on the battery of five subtests and a standard score of not lower than 410 on any one of the five subtests.

4.2. Prior to taking the GED Tests, individuals must pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor.

4.3. The State Department requires that the initial battery testing be completed within six weeks, or no more than two consecutive complete test sessions (whichever is longer in duration). First time examinees are expected to take two or more subtests per testing session except as provided by the GEDTS accommodations policy.

4.4. Individuals passing the GED Tests will receive a State of West Virginia GED Diploma.

#### **§126-32-5. Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger.**

5.1. For the purposes of GED testing, the official dropout date shall be defined as, "the school day after the student's last day of attendance," as outlined in W. Va. 126CSR81, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4110, "Attendance."

5.2. Individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age are eligible to test by qualifying under any of the following categories:

5.2.1. The candidate's original high school class has graduated before the candidate makes application for GED testing as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended. Documentation must include the withdrawal date as indicated in Section 5.1. and the original class graduation date. The candidate must also take and pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor; or

5.2.2. The candidate has been officially withdrawn from a "regular" high school (a secondary school characterized as a "regular" accredited high school by the jurisdiction as defined by the American Council on Education GED Testing Service), i.e., officially withdrawn

or home-schooled prior to test registration as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended or by written documentation from the county attendance director for the home-schooled student. Documentation must include the withdrawal date as indicated in Section 5.1. or home-school dates, and the original class graduation date. The candidate must also take and pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor.

5.3. Individuals who are sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age are eligible to test by qualifying under any of the following categories:

5.3.1. The candidate's original high school class has graduated before the candidate makes application for GED testing as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended. Documentation must include the withdrawal date as indicated in Section 5.1. and the original class graduation date. The candidate must take and pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor; or

5.3.2. The candidate has been officially withdrawn from a "regular" high school (a secondary school characterized as a "regular" accredited high school by the jurisdiction as defined by the American Council on Education GED Testing Service), i.e., officially withdrawn or home-schooled for a period of one month prior to test registration as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended or written documentation from the county attendance director for the home-schooled student. Documentation must include the withdrawal date as indicated in Section 5.1., or home-school dates, and the original class graduation date. The sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age candidate must also take and pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) achieving a minimum score of 410 on each individual subtest with a total score of 2250 as evidenced by written documentation from an Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor.

5.4. Examinees, at least sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age, who are participating in a residential, non-residential, or post-residential government program, i.e., Job Corps, Mountaineer Challenge Academy and/or other approved career focused federal residential programs, may be tested provided that the following conditions are met:

5.4.1. The candidate has been officially withdrawn from a "regular" high school (a secondary school characterized as a "regular" accredited high school by the jurisdiction as defined by the American Council on Education GED Testing Service) at least 30 days prior to testing as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended, and

5.4.2. The candidate has taken the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) as evidenced by written documentation from an instructor at the facility.

5.4.3. Documentation of 5.4.1. and 5.4.2. shall be submitted to the GED Examiner at registration and/or with registration materials.

5.4.4. A Mountaineer Challenge Academy cadet desiring to retest during the post-

residential phase, which lasts one year from graduation date, may use the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's photo identification if documentation reflecting the cadet's graduation date is presented to the GED Examiner.

5.5. Individuals who are sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age and are residents of a West Virginia state-operated institutional facility may take the tests while the examinee is under the control of the facility.

5.6. Adjudicated youth sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age, who are under the control of a court, detention center, group care facility, or probation office may be admitted to GED testing by qualifying under any of the following categories:

5.6.1. Adjudicated youth with a court order from a judge or an order from a magistrate designated as a juvenile referee is to be admitted for GED testing, even if the individual is still enrolled in school; or

5.6.2. Upon entering the control of a detention center or group care facility, an assessment that addresses the educational needs of the child is to be conducted by qualified personnel of the facility. If it is determined that there is no reasonable expectation of graduation from the "regular" high school (a secondary school characterized as a "regular" accredited high school by the jurisdiction as defined by the American Council on Education GED Testing Service) and if the possibility of being placed at a long-term instate facility is very unlikely, the youth may be admitted to GED Testing. Prior to testing, the GED candidate must be officially transferred from the public school system to the detention center or group care facility as evidenced by written documentation from the last school/system attended and must pass the Official GED Practice Tests (OPT) as evidenced by written documentation from an instructor at the facility.

5.7. All youth who have taken the GED Tests as per section 5.5-5.6. but did not pass the GED and are no longer a resident of a government program or are no longer a resident of a West Virginia state-operated institutional facility or are no longer adjudicated are eligible to continue testing upon completion of the program or upon release by presenting state issued photo identification and qualifying under either of the following categories:

5.7.1. A copy of a court order from a judge or an order from a magistrate, designated as a juvenile referee, is provided for the GED Examiner. The order must state that the individual is to take the GED Tests. Such an order allows an individual, sixteen (16), seventeen (17), or eighteen (18) years of age, to test even if the individual is still enrolled in school; or

5.7.2. The GED candidate's previous scores are located in the GED databank indicating to the GED Examiner that the previous GED Examiner obtained all necessary documentation needed for testing.

#### **§126-32-6. Residence.**

6.1. Persons meeting all criteria and demonstrating themselves eligible under the State of West Virginia GED Diploma guidelines shall be admitted to GED testing for the purpose of securing a State of West Virginia GED Diploma. The candidate must present clear, current,

state-issued photo identification, i.e., driver's license, state alternative identification, military identification or a valid passport. The GED Examiner may request further proof or other pertinent documentation as evidence of identity, i.e., birth certificate, Social Security card, etc.

**§126-32-7. Transcripts of Scores.**

7.1. The fact that a person has or has not taken the GED Tests is confidential information since disclosing participation in the GED Testing Program is tantamount to reporting the absence of a traditional high school diploma. Therefore, no name of a credential recipient will be released unless an individual candidate has signed written permission to release the information. Nevertheless, the GED candidate when registering for the GED Tests agrees that information will be shared with necessary West Virginia public school systems for data sharing purposes.

7.2. The original copy of the transcript and diploma shall be issued at no cost. Persons requesting a duplicate GED transcript and/or a replacement copy of their State of West Virginia GED Diploma as evidenced by passing the GED Tests must do so in writing to the State GED Office. The request must originate from the graduate and include the name under which testing occurred, Social Security number, date of birth, place and year of testing, daytime phone number, a copy of a current and valid state-issued photo identification, an original signature and designation as to whom the copy is to be sent. In addition, a check or money order for the research/printing fee, which is determined by the State Department's GED Office, must be included for each transcript requested. No requests, including those for correctional purposes, military enlistment, job placement, or test verification, will be honored without the research/printing fee. All requests must be submitted to the West Virginia Department of Education, GED Office, Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305.

**§126-32-8. Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations.**

8.1. Falsification of Test Information or Personal Security Violations.

8.1.1. Any falsification of information and/or cheating on the GED Tests will result in penalties as outlined in the West Virginia GED Examiners' Manual, "West Virginia GED Security and Administrative Procedures," and as directed by GEDTS regulations.

8.2. Security Compromises in Centers.

8.2.1. Testing center violations will be processed according to the procedures outlined in the West Virginia GED Examiners' Manual, "West Virginia GED Security and Administrative Procedures."

**§126-32-9. Testing Fees.**

9.1. Testing fees shall be established as outlined in the West Virginia GED Examiners' Manual, "West Virginia GED Security and Administrative Procedures." Changes of GED Tests fees by local testing centers must be approved by the State GED Office.

**§126-32-10. All correspondence regarding this policy should be directed to:**

10.1. State GED Coordinator.

GED Office  
West Virginia Department of Education  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330  
(304) 558-6315.

**§126-32-11. Severability.**

11.1. If any provision of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.

**FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET**  
(Submit 4 Copies)

HD NO \_\_\_\_\_ DRAFT NO \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO \_\_\_\_\_ RESOLUTION NO \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Policy 2444.4 Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma FUND \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE OF REVENUE:  GENERAL FUND  SPECIAL  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

COST OF ESTIMATE BASED ON:  AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE  BUDGET BILL  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON:  AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE  BUDGET BILL  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

**SHOW OVER-ALL EFFECT IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 & GIVE EXPLANATION OF BREAKDOWN BY FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING LONGRANGE EFFECT**

| EFFECT OF PROPOSAL   | ANNUAL   |          | FISCAL YEAR |       |            |
|--|----------|----------|-------------|-------|------------|
|  | INCREASE | DECREASE | CURRENT     | NEXT  | THEREAFTER |
| 1. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST  | \$-0-    | \$-0-    | \$-0-       | \$-0- | \$-0-      |
| PERSONAL SERVICES<br>CURRENT EXPENSES<br>REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS<br>EQUIPMENT<br>OTHER | \$       | \$       | \$          | \$    | \$         |
| 2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES  | \$-0-    | \$-0-    | \$-0-       | \$-0- | \$-0-      |

3. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONGRANGE EFFECT):

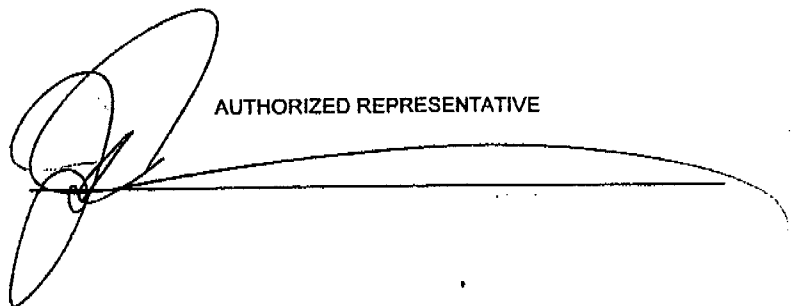
DATE

11-21-07

AGENCY

West Virginia Department of Education

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE



**Policy 2444.4 ISSUANCE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA BASED UPON  
PASSAGE FO THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED®) TESTS**

**Comment Log  
December 13, 2007-January 14, 2008**

Action      Type  
 N: No Response      - Negative  
 NA: Not Accepted      + Positive  
 A: Accepted      o Neutral

| DATE  | INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION  | COMMENTS   | ACTION/<br>TYPE | RATIONALE   |
|-------|--|--|-----------------|---|
| 12-19 | Teresa G. Morris<br>Principal<br>tmorris@access.k12.wv.us<br>Nicholas County Schools<br>PO Box 288<br>1988 Dixie Highway<br>Dixie WV 25059 | §126-32-1 General<br><br>I am a principal and a GED Instructor. Parent involvement is essential for the students who are 18 years old and under. Parent involvement consistently improves academics.                                   | NA/o            | 1. Parental involvement consistently improves success.  |
| 01-02 | Deena Rippeto<br>Program Analyst<br>deena.rippeto@bpd.treas.gov<br>Public Debt<br>(residence) 30 Killdeer Lane<br>Washington WV 26181      | My children, nieces, and nephews have all done much better in school with the BLOCK scheduling. I would hope a survey for parents, students, and teachers will be taken before changing something that seems to be working much better | N               | 2. Your comment concerning block scheduling was not intended for comments on the Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalence Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests (2444.4). Please, resubmit your comment to the intended policy. |

for everyone. My son will be going to South next year and will be assisted with Special Ed. I have been anxiously waiting for him to attend South with the Block Scheduling and am now so very dishearted to hear it may be changed. Please take a survey or online vote of some type to get everyone's opinions.

Shauna Jons  
School Counselor  
shnjones@access.k12.wv.us  
WVDE Office of Institutional Ed  
WV Children's Home School  
109 Maple Street  
Elkins WV 26241

Nothing to comment. N

I think the proposed changes will allow students to make choices and changes in their lives. The current requirements keep them in limbo and are sometimes an excuse for not setting goals. NA/+

3. The positive comment indicates that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

01-03  
Cindy Winters  
ABE Coordinator  
cindywinters@verizon.net  
Putnam County ABE  
P.O. Box 240  
Eleanor WV 25213

01-04

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>01-07</p> <p>Rhonda Freeman<br/>teacher<br/>rfreeman2@ACCESS.K12.WV.US<br/>teacher<br/>NEttie WV 26681</p>   | <p>The revisions to the policy seem to leave no excuse for getting the equivalent of a high school diploma. I hope it makes our dropout rate look better.</p>   | <p>See response #3</p>   |
| <p>01-10</p> <p>Marcia Ware<br/>coordinator/instructor<br/>mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/>Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning<br/>WorkForce WV<br/>195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/>Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>Agree!</p>   | <p>See response #3</p>   |
| <p>01-10</p> <p>Mary Rose Axton<br/>Transition Specialist<br/>maxton@access.k12.wv.us<br/>WVJHY<br/>15 Industrial Blvd<br/>Clarksburg WV 26301</p>  | <p>Pg. 2 Paragraph 1<br/>This is not clear as to whether or not a 16 or 17 year old that has obtained his GED could return to school. If a county can count a GED graduate as a completer and they return to school and then graduate with a high school diploma are they counted again? If a student drops out of school and after 1 month takes and passes the GED are they</p> | <p>4. "Pg. 2 Paragraph 1" refers to the Executive Summary and does not reflect proposed changes to the policy. After passing the GED, students may be taken off the dropout list and placed on the completer list. These students are not counted in the graduation rate. Nevertheless, all students meeting the age requirements for attending school may return to high school to obtain a high school diploma. These students will only be counted in the graduation rate if they meet the high school requirements for graduation.</p> |

permitted to return to school? Is this paragraph saying that a student may only return to school with out getting their GED?

Annette Shumate  
Director  
ccs@citlink.net  
Catholic Community  
Services/Eckman Learning Center  
PO Box 162  
Eckman WV 24829  
Harold Walker  
Chief GED Examiner  
[sugwalker@suddenlink.com](mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com)  
Garnet Career Center  
1028 Marina Drive  
Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

No comment N

In favor of this section NA/+ See response #3

As a parent and a staff, I have had experience with students who are intelligent and motivated but do not do well in the traditional secondary school setting. I have believed for years there should be an alternative provided to them.

See response #3

Marie Justiss  
Parent/School System Staff  
125 Sherman Avenue  
Morgantown, WV 26501

01/11

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>01-14</p> <p>Adrian King<br/>American Council on Education<br/>General Educational Development<br/>Testing Service<br/>One Dupont Circle, NW<br/>Washington, DC 20036-1163</p>                             | <p>Jurisdictional testing programs may continue to use previously printed materials that might contain unofficial forms of the GED trademarks through June 30, 2008; however, once existing supplies are exhausted, all new and reprinted materials must comply with these guidelines.</p> | <p>5. West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma no longer meets the guidelines established by GED Testing Service; therefore, the name of the diploma will be changed to The West Virginia GED Diploma.</p> |
| <p><b>§126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p>01-03</p> <p>Shauna Jons<br/>School Counselor<br/>shnjons@access.k12.wv.us<br/>WVDE Office of Institutional Ed<br/>WV Children's Home School<br/>109 Maple Street<br/>Elkins WV 26241</p>                  | <p>Approve.</p>  | <p>6. In Section §126-32-2, no changes were proposed, the positive comment reflects approval of the current policy.</p>   |
| <p>01-10</p> <p>Marcia Ware<br/>coordinator/instructor<br/>mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/>Mercer County Academy of Adult<br/>Learning<br/>WorkForce WV<br/>195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/>Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>Agree!</p>  | <p>See response #6</p>  |
| <p>01-10</p> <p>Annette Shumate<br/>Director<br/>ccs@citlink.net</p>  | <p>No comment</p>  | <p>N</p>  |

Catholic Community  
 Services/Eckman Learning Center  
 PO Box 162  
 Eckman WV 24829

Harold Walker  
 Chief GED Examiner

[sugwalker@suddenlink.com](mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com)  
 Garnet Career Center  
 1028 Marina Drive  
 Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

01/11

See response #6

NA/+

In favor of this section

Through my research, I have been told twice that only 40% of high school graduates would be able to pass this GED. I would think that passing the GED would be impressive to any college or university.

Marie Justiss  
 Parent/School System Staff  
 125 Sherman Avenue  
 Morgantown, WV 26501

01/11

NA/+

7. The GED Tests are normed so that sixty percent (60%) of the graduating high school seniors cannot pass the GED. Ninety percent (90%) of employers and colleges accept the GED diploma.

**§126-32-3 Applying for Testing**

These procedures have become practices for many WV centers. This policy would solidify best practices for all centers. It would also help deter compromises.

Linda Berlin  
 Adult Education Coordinator  
[lberlin@qccss.k12.wv.us](mailto:lberlin@qccss.k12.wv.us)  
 Marshall County Schools  
 2400 \$th Street  
 Moundsville WV 26041

01-01

NA/+

8. In Section §126-32-3, no changes were proposed, the positive comment reflects approval of the current policy.

Shauna Jons  
 School Counselor

01-03

NA/+

Approve.

See Response #8

|   |   |              |             |                                 |                        |
|---|---|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <p>shnjones@access.k12.wv.us<br/> WVDE Office of Institutional Ed<br/> WV Children's Home School<br/> 109 Maple Street<br/> Elkins WV 26241</p>                 | <p>Marcia Ware<br/> coordinator/instructor<br/> mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/> Mercer County Academy of Adult<br/> Learning<br/> WorkForce WV<br/> 195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/> Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>01-10</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>Agree!</p>                   | <p>See Response #8</p> |
| <p>Director<br/> ccs@citlink.net<br/> Catholic Community<br/> Services/Eckman Learning Center<br/> PO Box 162<br/> Eckman WV 24829</p>                          | <p>Annette Shumate</p>  | <p>01-10</p> | <p>N</p>    | <p>No comment</p>               | <p></p>                |
| <p>Harold Walker<br/> Chief GED Examiner<br/> sugwalker@suddenlink.com<br/> Garnet Career Center<br/> 1028 Marina Drive<br/> Hurricane, West Virginia 25526</p> | <p>Marie Justiss<br/> Parent/School System Staff<br/> 125 Sherman Avenue<br/> Morgantown, WV 26501</p>  | <p>01/11</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>In favor of this section</p> | <p>See response #8</p> |
| <p></p>   | <p>All seems adequate &amp;<br/> reasonable.</p>  | <p>01/11</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p></p>                         | <p>See response #8</p> |

**\$126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma**

|   |  |             |   |
|---|--|-------------|---|
| <p>SE Johnson<br/>Instructor<br/>sjohns@access.k12.wv.us<br/>RTC (Adult Learning Center)<br/>200 Kennedy Drive<br/>Elkins WV 26241</p>  | <p>All for the suspension of the three year completion rule. For some folks, it is just too hard to start all over again!!!</p>  | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>9. No longer requiring the GED candidates to pass the GED Tests within three years will greatly benefit the GED candidates.</p>  |
| <p>Patti Brown<br/>ABE Instructor<br/>pattibrown@gmail.com<br/>1503 Coventry Lane<br/>Charleston WV 25314</p>   | <p>I like getting rid of the three year rule, but does that make it five?</p>  | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #9.<br/>10. Furthermore, scores will only expire when GED Testing Service publishes a new series of GED Tests, approximately every ten (10) years.</p>                            |
| <p>Linda Jones<br/>GED Instructor<br/>jerichorose3@yahoo.com<br/>Resa V<br/>Calhoun Gilmer Career Center<br/>Little Kanawha Highway<br/>Grantsville WV 26147</p>  | <p>I support the suspension of the three year completion rule. However, individuals who need to re-test after the three year limit should be required to pass the Official GED Practice Test before re-testing in the necessary substest(s).</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #9.<br/>11. Passing the Official Practice Test prior to testing will eliminate the need to take the Official Practice if the GED Tests are not passed within three (3) years.</p> |
| <p>Vera Shockey<br/>Adult Basic Education Instructor,<br/>Hardy County<br/>vshockel@eastern.wvnet.edu<br/>South Branch Career &amp; Technical Center<br/>Eastern WV Community &amp; Technical College<br/>1929 State Rd. 55</p> | <p>I also agree that the three-year completion rule should be suspended. I have a student whose three years is almost up, and she has not passed one of her tests. She is trying very hard to pass.</p>  | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #9.</p>   |

|  |   |             |  |
|--|---|-------------|--|
| <p>Moorefield WV 26836</p> <p>Harold Walker<br/>Chief GED Examiner<br/><a href="mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com">sugwalker@suddenlink.com</a><br/>Garnet Career Center<br/>1028 Marina Drive<br/>Hurricane, West Virginia 25526</p>                | <p>I would hate for her to have to start all over again.</p>  | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See response #9.</p>  |
| <p>01/11</p> <p>Marie Justiss<br/>Parent/School System Staff<br/>125 Sherman Avenue<br/>Morgantown, WV 26501</p>   | <p>In favor of this section</p> <p>All seems adequate &amp; reasonable.</p>   | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See response #9.</p>  |
| <p>12-17</p> <p>Gordon Anderson<br/>Coordinator of Vocational Services<br/><a href="mailto:ganderso@access.k12.wv.us">ganderso@access.k12.wv.us</a><br/>John D. Rockefeller IV Career Center<br/>95 Rockyside Road<br/>New Cumberland WV 26047</p> | <p>Not all people take the ABE classes. Most testers come in and test first, then take classes to improve in the areas they need to retest. Many testers are adults over the age of 18 and don't want to have to jump through more hoops. It's not about whats best for the State Scores its whats best for the students.</p> | <p>NA/-</p> | <p>12. Passing the OPT prior to taking the GED is more likely to produce a "successful GED graduate." Additionally, in 2006, the average number of years out of school for GED passers was nearly seven years. Thus, taking the OPT may be used as a refresher course for the GED candidate and will allow those needing assistance in a particular subject area to get the needed help.</p> |
| <p>12-20</p> <p>CHARLES VANDEGRIFT<br/>ABE Instructor<br/><a href="mailto:cvandeagr@access...">cvandeagr@access...</a><br/>MORGANTOWN ADULT LEARNING CENTER at MTEC</p>  | <p>I concur that all testing candidates must pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Test in West Virginia.</p>  | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>13. Passing the OPT is a very good indication that the candidate will be successful on the GED Tests.</p>   |

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Tucker County GED  
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12-21

NA/-

See Response #12

Re Policy 2444.4.

I do not believe that this is necessary. Although passing the practice test may contribute to more people passing the GED, it will also discourage many from taking the test, especially adults who can't or won't take the adult ed. classes where the test is given.

Have real concerns with the section that requires passage of the practice test as a condition to test. This may limit some of the applicants who are trying to work for a living. This is a time constraint they may not be able to handle. It should be highly recommended to pass the practice test...but not required. May discourage some from even attempting to get their GED.

14. Each year in West Virginia approximately 2,000 GED candidates do not pass the GED Tests. The majority of these candidates are not enrolled in an ABE class. They do not have an instructor to encourage them nor help them to understand that with preparation they are more likely to pass the GED. Therefore, by requiring the GED candidates to pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests will help to identify those students that need the help prior to testing.

NA/-

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chief examiner  
principalrose@yahoo.com  
wcboe  
box 83 locust st  
pineville wv 24874

12-25

Just as traditional high school graduate are not required to be proficient in ALL their material the day before graduating, I think it is misguided to expect GED candidates to have passing scores in ALL test areas before testing.

As a GED instructor, I routinely practice-test prepare students for passing the three "reading" tests, gaining confidence to proceed. I then swing back and prepare them for math and grammar/essay. The latter are typically more frightening to them, but passable with the others already done. My protocol works and sustains motivation to complete the process.

NA/-

15. Not passing the OPT is an indication of not passing the GED Tests. Therefore, we would be playing a role in allowing the GED candidate receiving a score of 2000 to fail an educational goal once again.

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GED instructor  
gschubert@earthlink.net  
Jefferson County ABE  
399 Timber Lane  
Harpers Ferry WV 25425

12-30

Being a GED examiner for 20 years, I have seen the benefit of taking and passing the GED OPT. Many examinees come into the testing with the false concept that it is

NA/+

See Response #13

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Marshall County Schools  
2400 5th Street  
Moundsville WV 26041

01-01

easy. Many who do not pass, never return. Taking the OPT would allow them to know more about the test, and if their skills are low, be able to attend free classes to help them be more successful in passing the test.. This seems to be a win, win situation for the examinee and the state.

|   |   |             |                         |
|---|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| <p>Shauna Jons<br/>School Counselor<br/>shnjones@access.k12.wv.us</p>   | <p>Approve.</p>   | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p> |
| <p>01-03 WVDE Office of Institutional Ed<br/>WV Children's Home School<br/>109 Maple Street<br/>Elkins WV 26241</p>               | <p>Using the OPT as an indicator of success is a logical requirement. The students who need help prior to testing will be identified.</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p> |
| <p>Cindy Winters<br/>ABE Coordinator<br/>cindywinters@verizon.net<br/>Putnam County ABE<br/>P.O. Box 240<br/>Eleanor WV 25213</p> | <p>I really like this! I believe this will eliminate some problems encountered by examiners-some applicants have no clue</p>              | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p> |
| <p>01-07 Vicki Buell<br/>WVDE/OIEP<br/>Coordinator of Education for Juvenile Facilities<br/>Building 6 Room 728</p>               |   |             |                         |

|              |  |   |             |  |
|--------------|--|---|-------------|--|
| <p>01-09</p> | <p>Nicole Vint<br/>         ABE Instructor<br/>         nicolevint@verizon.net<br/>         Basic Education<br/>         P.O. Box 1014<br/>         Madison WV 25130</p>   | <p>of their true ability to pass.<br/>         I think it is a great idea for testing candidates to take the OPT prior to testing. This will increase the number of candidates who pass the test and increase the use of the ABE class rooms.</p> | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p>  |
| <p>01-10</p> | <p>Marcia Ware<br/>         coordinator/instructor<br/>         mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/>         Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning<br/>         WorkForce WV<br/>         195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/>         Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>Agree!</p>   | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p>  |
| <p>01-10</p> | <p>Annette Shumate<br/>         Director<br/>         ccs@citlink.net<br/>         Catholic Community Services/Eckman Learning Center<br/>         PO Box 162<br/>         Eckman WV 24829</p>   | <p>4.42. The requirement that all GED test takers pass the OPT before taking the GED Tests is a good one. At the Eckman Learning Center, we have always required our students to pass the OPT before we send them to take the GED.</p>            | <p>NA/+</p> | <p>See Response #13</p>  |
| <p>01-10</p> | <p>Annette Shumate<br/>         Director</p>   | <p>4.3. I am somewhat confused by this</p>  | <p>NA/o</p> | <p>16. GED Testing Service currently does not require that the GED candidates complete the five test</p> |

|   |  |  |                         |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| <p>ccs@citlink.net<br/>Catholic Community Services/Eckman Learning Center<br/>PO Box 162<br/>Eckman WV 24829</p>  | <p>section, even though there are no proposed changes except striking "and GEDTS." Does it mean that first-time GED test takers do not have to test in all 5 areas at once? If so, how does the new OPT requirement affect this section? Does a student have to pass only the sections of the OPT he/she plans to test in any one testing session, or does the entire OPT have to be passed before the student takes ANY of the GED tests?</p> | <p>batteries at the initial testing session. In West Virginia, first time GED testers must complete the five batteries of tests at the first testing session, which consists of taking all tests in one day or taking part of the test one day and returning the next day to take the remaining batteries. After the initial testing session, the GED candidates may take one or more tests at a time to bring up scores to a passing level. The GED candidate must have a passing score in all five subjects of the OPT prior to testing.</p> | <p>See response #13</p> |
| <p>Marie Justiss<br/>Parent/School System Staff<br/>125 Sherman Avenue<br/>Morgantown, WV 26501</p>   | <p>All seems adequate &amp; reasonable.</p>  | <p>NA/+</p>  | <p>See response #13</p> |
| <p align="center"><b>§126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger</b></p>  |  |  |                         |
| <p>Gordon Anderson<br/>Coordinator of Vocational Services<br/>ganderso@access.k12.wv.us<br/>John D. Rockefeller IV Career Center<br/>95 Rockside Road<br/>New Cumberland WV 26047</p> | <p>Make all 17 &amp; 16 year old students take the OPT BEFORE they officially withdraw from school. Change the 17 year old to 3 months out before they test. Leave the 16 year old the way</p>   | <p>17. Policy 2444.4 provides guidelines for GED testing only and has no authorization with high school requirements, such as requiring students to take the Official GED Practice Tests prior to withdrawing from school.</p> <p>18. Prior to submitting the proposed Policy 2444.4 to the State Board of Education, GED Testing</p>  | <p>12-17</p>            |

it is currently. It's not about what's best for the State Scores its what's best for the students.

Service sent a memo stating the guidelines for testing sixteen (16), seventeen (17), and eighteen (18) year olds. The guidelines recommend passing the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests. West Virginia's proposed Policy 2444.4 also requires the sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds to be withdrawn from school or homeschooled for one month prior to testing.

19. The positive comment concerning the age requirements indicates that the proposed changes will benefit the GED candidate and the ABE instructors.

NA/+

Great! This will make the life of instructors easier.

Patti Brown  
ABE Instructor  
pattibrown@gmail.com  
1503 Coventry Lane  
Charleston WV 25314

12-18

I like the idea that young students are required to take the OPT to help them determine which path is more appropriate--staying in school or getting a GED equivalency. I am also glad to see that eighteen year olds are not required to be out of school for three months because they are indeed an adult.

NA/+

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RTC (Adult Learning Center)  
200 Kennedy Drive  
Elkins WV 26241

12-18

20. The positive comment concerning the age requirements indicates that the proposed changes will benefit the GED candidate.

Parent involvement is an advantage for

NA/o

Teresa G. Morris  
Principal

12-19

21. I am afraid your comment concerning parent involvement was not intended for comments on

the Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalence Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests (2444.4). I want your comments to be recorded on the correct policy; therefore, you may want to resubmit your comments to the intended policy.

students.

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PO Box 288  
1988 Dixie Highway  
Dixie WV 25059

I support the requirement that individuals who are eighteen years and younger be allowed to test following satisfactory completion of the Official OPT test. I also support the changes to the text in the remainder of this section.

Linda Jones  
GED Instructor  
jerichorose3@yahoo.com  
Resa V  
Calhoun Gilmer Career Center  
Little Kanawha Highway  
Grantsville WV 26147

See Response #20

NA/+

22. Many West Virginia GED candidates ages sixteen (16) to seventeen (17) are unable to secure either a letter from an employer, military recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED Tests. This has proven to be more of a deterrent. Taking and passing the OPT are more relevant to being admitted to testing because most candidates cannot secure a job, enter into the military, or enroll in secondary education without a GED.

I believe the candidates under 18 years of age should continue to be required to provide a statement on official letterhead from an employer, military recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once

NA/-

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MORGANTOWN ADULT  
LEARNING CENTER at MTEC  
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12-20

he/she passes the GED Tests.

23. Prior to submitting the proposed Policy 2444.4 to the State Board of Education, GED Testing Service sent a memo stating the guidelines for testing sixteen (16), seventeen (17), and eighteen (18) year olds. The guidelines recommend passing the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests. Although GED Testing Service had no waiting time prior to testing, West Virginia's proposed Policy 2444.4 also requires the sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds to be withdrawn from school or homeschooled for one month prior to testing. Being out of school for one (1) month is time enough for a "cooling off period" and hopefully the student will decide to return to school. Due to the current requirements of waiting three (3) to six (6) months prior to testing, many students are lost to society.

See Response #20

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12-20

Should still keep the requirement of the under 18 to be officially NA/- withdrawn for at least 6 months.

5.2.3. Eliminating the 3-month waiting period is an excellent move. If an 18-year-old is ready to take the test before his/her class has graduated, there is no good reason to make him/her wait.

NA/+

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Director  
css@citlink.net  
Catholic Community  
Services/Eckman Learning Center  
PO Box 162  
Eckman WV 24829

01-10

5.3. In our experience at

the Eckman Learning Center, a good number of 16 and 17-year-olds can be ready to take the GED relatively quickly. Most 16-year-olds who have dropped out of high school do not want to attend GED classes for 2 years before taking the GED tests. Although I realize the original intent was to stem the high school drop-out rate, I don't think the previous policy made that much difference in the drop-out statistics. Instead, it keeps 16 and 17 year olds more or less idle for up to 2 years. As we see it, if a person already has the knowledge to pass the GED tests (which, as you probably know, are much more difficult than most test given in the high schools), it is simply punitive to force that person into educational limbo. With

a GED, that person could go on to college or into the work force.

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 Chief GED Examiner  
[sugwalker@suddenlink.com](mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com)  
 Garnet Career Center  
 1028 Marina Drive  
 Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

In favor of this section NA/+ See response #20

NA/+

In favor of this section

Marie Justiss  
 Parent/School System Staff  
 125 Sherman Avenue  
 Morgantown, WV 26501

Due to illness, the traditional school is not the answer for my daughter.

See response #20

NA/+

24. The GED candidates testing at a residential government program were eligible to take the GED Tests while in the program. Under current GED Policy 2444.4, the candidates needing to retest in a given subject after completing the program must once again meet another set of requirements for eligibility. Many times these students are only ten (10) points away from obtaining a GED Diploma and may have to wait almost a year in order to become eligible to continue testing. This only causes a barrier to continuing their education.

Keep the section that states, "If the candidate does not pass the GED Tests while a participant in a residential government program, in order to continue testing upon release, the examinee must qualify under sections 3.1., 3.2., 3.3., 4.1., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4, 5.1., 5.2., 5.3., ect.

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 ABE Instructor  
 cvandegr@access....  
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NA/-

Vicki Buell  
 WVDE/OIEP  
 Coordinator of Education for Juvenile  
 Facilities  
 Building 6 Room 728

Good job on the changes in this part, especially 5.6.2! I like the wording in 5.7.1 "even if the individual

See Response #20

NA/+

See Response #20

01/11

01/11

12-20

01-07

is still enrolled in school," because we believe OIEP students need to remain in classes, even if they pass the GED.

This would put us in line with other states that already allow 16, 17 and 18 year olds to take the GED test.

Counties could also count these individuals for completion. Also, with increased

graduation requirements, it is my opinion we are going to have more dropouts.

These students must have an alternative to regular high school graduation. It is to the benefit of the students and taxpayers that we try to provide another path of success. Taking the OPT would also provide a guide for these students as to their need for more study before they take the test. Some may even

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Marshall County Schools  
2400 5th Street  
Moundsville WV 26041

See Response #20

NA/+

01-01

decide that high school completion would be easier.

Approve the removal of the "withdrawn for 3 months."

Approve the removal of the need for documentation from a post-secondary employer, recruiter or educational representative.

Highly approve 5.6.1 and 5.6.2; this will greatly help out with juvenile residential GED candidates.

Traditional school

settings do not meet the needs of all students. In our changing world, it is imperative that we recognize varied methods of delivery and timeliness of same.

I like the idea of allowing the 16, 17, 18 year old students the opportunity to take the test - after being out of school for a month. I

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 WVDE Office of Institutional Ed  
 WV Children's Home School  
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01-03

NA/+ See Response #20

Cindy Winters  
 ABE Coordinator  
 cindywinters@verizon.net  
 Putnam County ABE  
 P.O. Box 240  
 Eleanor WV 25213

01-04

NA/+ See Response #20

Nicole Vint  
 ABE Instructor  
 nicolevint@verizon.net  
 Basic Education  
 P.O. Box 1014  
 Madison WV 25130

01-09

NA/+ See Response #20

think this increases the success of more students following through with their education and moving toward further education or vocational/work opportunities. Plus it would over all help the drop out rate by the high schools being able to count those who pass.

As a teacher in the GED program in Mercer County, I am in total agreement with the age change in requirements. Presently, I have five 17 year old students, two 16 year old, and two 18 year old students who are waiting to take the test because they have not been out of school the required number of months under present requirements. All of these have passed the Official Practice GED test with college scores. It is very frustrating for these students, and I am

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See Response #20

NA/+

01-10

afraid that they may not ever take the GED test. Some of these may attend college and continue class to study advanced math, but others are employed and are no longer in class. They have no intention of returning to high school; so why penalize them further by making them wait five more months or until he/she turns 17 or 18. Former 16 year old students have tended to drop out of GED class due to the long wait for the GED test. And it is ironic that a 16 year old who is court ordered to get a GED can take the test, but someone who has not been in trouble has to wait until he/she meets the requirements. Something is not right with this and the age requirements and time out of high school needs to be changed as soon as possible.

In addition, there is a definite need to eliminate a statement from an employer, military recruiter, college admissions officer of vocational director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED test. I have never agreed with this as this penalized the young pregnant married ladies who are putting their employment/training on hold until after the birth of their child. However, they do want to complete their GED while pregnant and have the time to devote to their studies. We start on the first day of classes in regard to what the student plans to do when he/she earns a GED, but a statement to this does not verify that he/she will honor the statement as new circumstances arise to

prevent them from attending training until later (financial aid, illnesses, accidents, etc.) and frankly it serves no purpose whatsoever.

While I strongly agree that students remain in high school, the GED will at least complete their education. Many circumstances keep them from attending regular school, and we must do everything possible to assist them in becoming productive citizens of the community. Better jobs and training are available with a GED, and if the student proves he/she can pass the test, he/she should not be penalized for dropping out of school for some very valid reason.

Thank you for this consideration, and with

the changes, I feel we can do more for our youth in Mercer County.

I agree with the proposed changes of letting 16 & 17 year olds test after being out of school one month and passing the OPT. As an ABE instructor, I see many students who can pass the GED, but become discouraged because of having to wait.

I also agree to suspend the requirement for 17 year olds to have a letter from an employer, military, or college.

See Response #20

NA/+

Vera Shockey  
Adult Basic Education Instructor,  
Hardy County  
vshocke1@eastern.wvnet.edu  
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Eastern WV Community & Technical  
College  
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01-11

**§126-32-6 Residence**

Students who live in a youth center should be able to take the test. Their age should not be the main factor. We should consider their circumstances.

25. The American Council on Education's minimum age for taking the GED Tests is sixteen (16). Therefore, the GED Tests are not administered to students under the age of sixteen (16).

This would make testing out of state residents, with proper

26. In Section §126-32-6, no changes were proposed, the positive comment reflects approval of the current policy.

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Principal  
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PO Box 288  
1988 Dixie Highway  
Dixie WV 25059

12-19

Linda Berlin  
Adult Education Coordinator  
lberlin@qccss.k12.wv.us

01-01

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Marshall County Schools<br/>2400 5th Street<br/>Moundsville WV 26041</p>  | <p>identification much easier, especially for those of us on the state lines.</p>   |   |
| <p>Shauna Jons<br/>School Counselor<br/>shnjones@access.k12.wv.us<br/>WVDE Office of Institutional Ed<br/>WV Children's Home School<br/>109 Maple Street<br/>Elkins WV 26241</p>             | <p>Nothing to comment.</p>  | <p>N</p>  |
| <p>01-03</p>   | <p>Agree.</p>   | <p>NA/+ See Response #26</p>  |
| <p>Marcia Ware<br/>coordinator/instructor<br/>mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/>Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning<br/>WorkForce WV<br/>195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/>Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>Is there a minimum West Virginia residency period? If so, shouldn't it be specified? I am also wondering about cases in which a person moves to WV from another state and wants to take the GED.</p> | <p>27. West Virginia does not have a residency requirement. Therefore, a GED candidate is eligible to test in West Virginia after meeting the age requirements and providing a valid and current state-issued photo identification.</p> |
| <p>01-10</p>   | <p>In favor of this section</p>   | <p>NA/+</p>   |
| <p>Annette Shumate<br/>Director<br/>ccs@citlink.net<br/>Catholic Community Services/Eckman Learning Center<br/>PO Box 162<br/>Eckman WV 24829</p>  | <p>Harold Walker<br/>Chief GED Examiner<br/>sugwalker@suddenlink.com<br/>Garnet Career Center</p>   | <p>See response #26</p>   |
| <p>01/11</p>   |   |   |

1028 Marina Drive  
Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

§126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores

|       |  |  |      |   |
|-------|--|--|------|---|
| 01-01 | <p>Linda Berlin<br/>Adult Education Coordinator<br/>lberlin@qccss.k12.wv.us<br/>Marshall County Schools<br/>2400 5th Street<br/>Moundsville WV 26041</p>                                     | <p>With the importance of confidentiality increasing daily, this addition to the policy is extremely important.</p>                                      | NA/+ | <p>28. The security of the GED candidates' records must be a top priority for all GED Examiners.</p>  |
| 01-03 | <p>Shauna Jons<br/>School Counselor<br/>shnjones@access.k12.wv.us<br/>WVDE Office of Institutional Ed<br/>WV Children's Home School<br/>109 Maple Street<br/>Elkins WV 26241</p>             | <p>Nothing to comment.</p>   | N    |   |
| 01-10 | <p>Marcia Ware<br/>coordinator/instructor<br/>mware@access.k12.wv.us<br/>Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning<br/>WorkForce WV<br/>195 Davis Street, Suite 108<br/>Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>Agree.</p>  | NA/+ | <p>See Response #28</p>   |
| 01-10 | <p>Annette Shumate<br/>Director<br/>ccs@citlink.net<br/>Catholic Community Services/Eckman Learning Center<br/>PO Box 162<br/>Eckman WV 24829</p>  | <p>I like the added confidentiality; however, doesn't the language here imply that the GED credential is "lesser" than a high school diploma? I know</p> | NA/o | <p>29. The language by no means suggests that the GED is 'lesser' than a high school diploma. The GED Tests are normed so that 40% of the graduating high school students cannot pass the GED Tests. Dropping out of school labels the individual as a "failure" and some adults do not want society to think of them as a "failure".</p> |

Therefore, we must provide this confidentiality for the GED candidates.

that this perception is often present in the public's mind, but I don't think we need to endorse that perception in the GED policy.

Harold Walker  
 Chief GED Examiner  
[sugwalker@suddenlink.com](mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com)  
 Garnet Career Center  
 1028 Marina Drive  
 Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

See response #28

NA/+

In favor of this section

01/11

**§126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations**

Shauna Jons  
 School Counselor  
[shnjones@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:shnjones@access.k12.wv.us)  
 WVDE Office of Institutional Ed  
 WV Children's Home School  
 109 Maple Street  
 Elkins WV 26241

30. In Section §126-32-8, no changes were proposed; the positive comment reflects approval of the current policy.

N

Nothing to comment.

01-03

Marcia Ware  
 coordinator/instructor  
[mware@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:mware@access.k12.wv.us)  
 Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning  
 WorkForce WV  
 195 Davis Street, Suite 108  
 Princeton WV 24740

See Response #30

NA/+

Agree!

01-10

Annette Shumate

No comment

N

01-10

Director  
ccs@citlink.net  
Catholic Community  
Services/Eckman Learning Center  
PO Box 162  
Eckman WV 24829  
Harold Walker  
Chief GED Examiner  
[sugwalker@suddenlink.com](mailto:sugwalker@suddenlink.com)  
Garnet Career Center  
1028 Marina Drive  
Hurricane, West Virginia 25526

01/11

In favor of this section NA/+

See Response #30

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 3:15 PM  
**To:** 'a\_felty\_2@hotmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-21 11:00:51)

Good Afternoon Ann,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you work with the adult students daily. Please allow me to disclose the rationale for making the following change:

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Re Policy 2444.4.

I do not believe that this is necessary. Although passing the practice test may contribute to more people passing the GED, it will also discourage many from taking the test, especially adults who can't or won't take the adult ed. classes where the test is given.

Each year in West Virginia approximately 2,000 GED candidates do not pass the GED Tests. The majority of these candidates are not enrolled in an ABE class. They do not have an instructor to encourage them nor help them to understand that with preparation they are more likely to pass the GED. Therefore, by requiring the GED candidates to pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests will help to identify those students that need the help prior to testing.

I understand that many GED candidates have jobs and their time is limited. Nevertheless, the few hours required to take the OPT are minuscule compared to the four (4) years required to get a high school diploma.

Passing the OPT prior to taking the GED is more likely to produce a "successful GED graduate."

Thank you for your concern and your service as a GED Examiner for the West Virginia GED Testing Program.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2007 11:01 AM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us

Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-21 11:00:51)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here: <http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2> This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Anne M. Felty  
Organization: Tucker County GED  
Email: [a\\_felty\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:a_felty_2@hotmail.com)  
Title: Chief Examiner  
Address1: P.O. Box 291  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Davis, WV 26260  
Role: Professional Support  
Posted: 2007-12-21 11:00:51  
Posted from IP: 129.71.94.254

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
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Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Re Policy 2444.4.

I do not believe that this is necessary. Although passing the practice test may contribute to more people passing the GED, it will also discourage many from taking the test, especially adults who can't or won't take the adult ed. classes where the test is given.

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
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Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 1:48 PM  
**To:** Cindy Winters (clwinter@access.k12.wv.us)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-04 13:54:50)

Good Morning Cindy,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you instruct adult students daily. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----  
From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Friday, January 04, 2008 1:55 PM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-04 13:54:50)

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The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
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This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4  
#####  
Name: Cindy Winters  
Organization: Putnam County ABE  
Email: [cindywinters@verizon.net](mailto:cindywinters@verizon.net)  
Title: ABE Coordinator  
Address1: P.O. Box 240  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Eleanor, WV 25213  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2008-01-04 13:54:50  
Posted from IP: 168.216.85.70

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

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I think the proposed changes will allow students to make choices and changes in their lives. The current requirements keep them in limbo and are sometimes an excuse for not setting goals.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
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Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Using the OPT as an indicator of success is a logical requirement. The students who need help prior to testing will be identified.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
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Traditional school settings do not meet the needs of all students. In our changing world, it is imperative that we recognize varied methods of delivery and timeliness of same.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
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Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
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## Debra Kimbler

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 9:54 AM  
**To:** Gordon Anderson (ganderso@access.k12.wv.us)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-17 11:00:09)

Good Morning Gordon,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. Please allow me to disclose the rationale for making the following changes:

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Not all people take the ABE classes. Most testers come in and test first, then take classes to improve in the areas they need to retest. Many testers are adults over the age of 18 and don't want to have to jump through more hoops. It's not about what's best for the State Scores it's what's best for the students.

The WV GED Office does not look at requiring the OPT as jumping "through more hoops". Passing the OPT prior to taking the GED is more likely to produce a "successful GED graduate." Additionally, in 2006, the average number of years out of school for GED passers was nearly seven years. Thus, taking the OPT may be used as a refresher course for the GED candidate and will allow those needing assistance in a particular subject area to get the needed help.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Make all 17 & 16 year old students take the OPT BEFORE they officially withdraw from school. Change the 17 year old to 3 months out before they test. Leave the 16 year old the way it is currently. It's not about what's best for the State Scores it's what's best for the students.

Policy 2444.4 provides guidelines for GED Testing only and has no authorization with high school requirements, such as requiring students to take the Official GED Practice Tests prior to withdrawing from school.

Prior to submitting the proposed Policy 2444.4 to the State Board of Education, GED Testing Service sent Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools, a memo stating the guidelines for testing sixteen (16), seventeen (17), and eighteen (18) year olds. The guidelines recommend passing the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests. West Virginia's proposed Policy 2444.4 also requires the sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds to be withdrawn from school or homeschooled for one month prior to testing.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2007 11:00 AM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-17 11:00:09)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
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The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Gordon Anderson  
Organization: John D. RockefellerIV Career Center  
Email: ganderso@access.k12.wv.us  
Title: Coordinator of Vocational Services  
Address1: 95 Rockyside Road  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: New Cumberland , WV 26047  
Role: Professional Support  
Posted: 2007-12-17 11:00:09  
Posted from IP: 168.216.243.148

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
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Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Not all people take the ABE classes. Most testers come in and test first, then take classes to improve in the areas they need to retest. Many testers are adults over the age of 18 and don't want to have to jump through more hoops. It's not about what's best for the State Scores it's what's best for the students.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Make all 17 & 16 year old students take the OPT BEFORE they officially withdraw from school. Change the 17 year old to 3 months out before they test. Leave the 16 year old the way it is currently. It's not about what's best for the State Scores it's what's best for the students.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence

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Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center  
Violations  
-----

## Debra Kimbler

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 2:51 PM  
**To:** 'gshubert@earthlink.net'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-30 19:52:51)

Good Afternoon George,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you work with the adult students daily. Please allow me to disclose the rationale for making the following changes:

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

Just as traditional high school graduate are not required to be proficient in ALL their material the day before graduating, I think it is misguided to expect GED candidates to have passing scores in ALL test areas before testing. As a GED instructor, I routinely practice-test prepare students for passing the three "reading" tests, gaining confidence to proceed. I then swing back and prepare them for math and grammar/essay. The latter are typically more frightening to them, but passable with the others already done. My protocol works and sustains motivation to complete the process.

Each year in West Virginia approximately 2,000 GED candidates do not pass the GED Tests. The majority of these candidates are not enrolled in an ABE class. They do not have an instructor, like you, to encourage them nor help them to understand that more preparation is needed for them to be successful. Therefore, by requiring the GED candidates to pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests will help to identify those students that need the help of an ABE Instructor.

Thanks you for the service that you have provided for the adult students in Jefferson County.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 30, 2007 7:53 PM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-30 19:52:51)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>

This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: George Schubert  
Organization: Jefferson County ABE  
Email: [gschubert@earthlink.net](mailto:gschubert@earthlink.net)  
Title: GED instructor  
Address1: 399 Timber Lane  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2007-12-30 19:52:51  
Posted from IP: 4.248.43.127

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
Just as traditional high school graduate are not required to be proficient in ALL their material the day before graduating, I think it is misguided to expect GED candidates to have passing scores in ALL test areas before testing. As a GED instructor, I routinely practice-test prepare students for passing the three "reading" tests, gaining confidence to proceed. I then swing back and prepare them for math and grammar/essay. The latter are typically more frightening to them, but passable with the others already done. My protocol works and sustains motivation to complete the process.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing

-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger

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Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence

-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores

-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations

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**Debra Kimbler**

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 2:34 PM  
**To:** Linda Berlin (lberlin@access.k12.wv.us)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-01 15:51:24)

Good Afternoon Linda,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you have been a GED Examiner for 20 years. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes not only will benefit the GED candidates but the County Boards of Education.

Your years of service to the GED Testing process is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 01, 2008 3:51 PM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-01 15:51:24)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Linda Berlin  
Organization: Marshall County Schools  
Email: [lberlin@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:lberlin@access.k12.wv.us)  
Title: Adult Education Coordinator  
Address1: 2400 5th Street  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Moundsville, WV 26041`  
Role: Professional Support  
Posted: 2008-01-01 15:51:24  
Posted from IP: 24.3.220.245

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
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These procedures have become practices for many WV centers. This policy would solidify best practices for all centers. It would also help deter compromises.

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Being a GED examiner for 20 years, I have seen the benefit of taking and passing the GED OPT. Many examinees come into the testing with the false concept that it is easy. Many who do not pass, never return. Taking the OPT would allow them to know more about the test, and if their skills are low, be able to attend free classes to help them be more successful in passing the test.. This seems to be a win, win situation for the examinee and the state.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
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This would put us in line with other states that already allow 16, 17 and 18 year olds to take the GED test. Counties could also count these individuals for completion. Also, with increased graduation requirements, it is my opinion we are going to have more dropouts. These students must have an alternative to regular high school graduation. It is to the benefit of the students and taxpayers that we try to provide another path of success. Taking the OPT would also provide a guide for these students as to their need for more study before they take the test. Some may even decide that high school completion would be easier.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
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This would make testing out of state residents, with proper identification much easier, especially for those of us on the state lines.

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
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With the importance of confidentiality increasing daily, this addition to the policy is extremely important.

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

## Debra Kimbler

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 4:22 PM  
**To:** 'jerichorose3@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-20 11:52:44)

Good Afternoon Linda,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you instruct adult students daily. Please allow me to discuss your comment on the following change:

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

I support the suspension of the three year completion rule. However, individuals who need to re-test after the three year limit should be required to pass the Official GED Practice Test before re-testing in the necessary subtest(s).

Having the individuals to re-test after three years is a very unique proposal. Hopefully, requiring the GED candidates to pass the OPT will cause many of those who do not pass to seek the help of an ABE Instructor and will pass the GED within three years. If this doesn't work, we may then try your proposal.

Thank you for the services that you provide for the adult students at the Calhoun Gilmer Career Center. Your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 20, 2007 11:53 AM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-20 11:52:44)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Linda Jones  
Organization: Resa V  
Email: [jerichorose3@yahoo.com](mailto:jerichorose3@yahoo.com)  
Title: GED Instructor  
Address1: Calhoun Gilmer Career Center  
Address2: Little Kanawha Highway  
City/State/Zip: Grantsville, WV 26147  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2007-12-20 11:52:44  
Posted from IP: 168.216.120.210

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
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Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

I support the suspension of the three year completion rule. However, individuals who need to re-test after the three year limit should be required to pass the Official GED Practice Test before re-testing in the necessary subtest(s).

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

I support the requirement that individuals who are eighteen years and younger be allowed to test following satisfactory completion of the Official OPT test. I also support the changes to the text in the remainder of this section.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 9:11 AM  
**To:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Re: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 10:10:45)

----- Original Message -----

From: <dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us>  
Date: Friday, January 11, 2008 9:06 am  
Subject: Re: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 10:10:45)  
To: mware@access.k12.wv.us

> Good Morning Marcia,  
>  
> Thank you for taking the time to share your views concerning the  
> proposed Policy 2444.4. As an ABE instructor we greatly value your  
> assessments of these changes since you work with the adult students  
> daily. Your positive comments indicate that these changes will  
> definitely benefit the GED candidates.  
>  
> We value your service to the ABE program in West Virginia.  
>  
> Debra Kimbler  
> State GED Administrator  
>  
> ----- Original Message -----  
> From: Nobody <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>  
> Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008 10:14 am  
> Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 10:10:45)  
> To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us, dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
>  
>  
> > Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
> > Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.  
> > The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
> > <http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
> > This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.  
> >  
> > Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 >  
> #####  
> #####  
> > Name: Marcia Ware  
> > Organization: Mercer County Academy of Adult Learning > Email:  
> mware@access.k12.wv.us > Title: coordinator/instructor > Address1:  
> WorkForce WV > Address2: 195 Davis Street, Suite 108 >  
> City/State/Zip: Princeton, WV 24740 > Role: Teacher > Posted:  
> 2008-01-10 10:10:45 > Posted from IP: 168.216.56.196 > >  
> > Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
> > -----  
> > Agree!  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School

>  
> > Equivalency Diploma  
> > -----  
> > Agree!  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
> > -----  
> > Agree!  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of  
> West  
> > Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma >  
> -----  
> > Agree!  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen  
> (18)  
> > Years of Age and Younger  
> > -----  
> > As a teacher in the GED program in Mercer County, I am in total >  
> agreement with the age change in requirements. Presently, I have five  
> > 17 year old students, two 16 year old, and two 18 year old students  
>  
> > who are waiting to take the test because they have not been out of  
>  
> > school the required number of months under present requirements.  
> All  
> > of these have passed the Official Practice GED test with college >  
> scores. It is very frustrating for these students, and I am afraid  
>  
> > that they may not ever take the GED test. Some of these may attend  
>  
> > college and continue class to study advanced math, but others are  
> > employed and are no longer in class. They have no intention of >  
> returning to high school; so why penalize them further by making them  
> > wait five more months or until he/she turns 17 or 18. Former 16  
> year  
> > old students have tended to drop out of GED class due to the long  
> wait > for the GED test. And it is ironic that a 16 year old who is  
> court  
>  
> > ordered to get a GED can take the test,!  
> > but someone who has not been in trouble has to wait until he/she  
>  
> > meets the requirements. Something is not right with this and the  
> age > requirements and time out of high school needs to be changed as  
> soon > as possible.  
> >  
> > In addition, there is a definite need to eliminate a statement  
> from > an employer, military recruiter, college admissions officer of  
> > vocational director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate  
> > once he/she passes the GED test. I have never agreed with this as  
>  
> > this penalized the young pregnant married ladies who are putting  
> their > employment/training on hold until after the birth of their  
> child.  
>

> > However, they do want to complete their GED while pregnant and have  
>  
> > the time to devote to their studies. We start on the first day of  
>  
> > classes in regard to what the student plans to do when he/she earns  
> a > GED, but a statement to this does not verify that he/she will  
> honor  
>  
> > the statement as new circumstances arise to prevent them from >  
> attending training until later (financial aid, illnesses, accidents,  
> > etc.)and frankly it serves no purpose whatsoever.  
> >  
> > While I strongly agree that students remain in high school, the  
> GED > will at least complete their education. Many circumstances  
> keep them > from attending regular school, and we must do everything  
> possible to > assist them in becoming productive citizens of the  
> community.  
> Better  
> > jobs and training are available with a GED, and if the student  
> proves > he/she can pass the test, he/she should not be penalized for  
> dropping > out of school for some very valid reason.  
> >  
> > Thank you for this consideration, and with the changes, I feel we  
> can > do more for our youth in Mercer County.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
> > -----  
> > Agree.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
> > -----  
> > Agree.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests  
> > Information and/or Center Violations >  
> -----  
> > Agree!  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
>

**Debra Kimbler**

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**From:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 9:10 AM  
**To:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Re: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 12:41:15)

----- Original Message -----

From: <dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us>  
Date: Friday, January 11, 2008 9:23 am  
Subject: Re: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 12:41:15)  
To: maxton@access.k12.wv.us

> Good Morning Mary,  
>  
> Thank you for taking the time to review the proposed changes for  
> Policy 2444.4. After passing the GED, students may be taken off the  
> dropout list and placed on the completer list. These students are not  
> counted in the graduation rate. Nevertheless, all students meeting  
> the age requirements for attending school may return to high school to  
> obtain a high school diploma. These students will only be counted in  
> the graduation rate if they meet the high school requirements for  
> graduation.  
>  
> Once again thank you for sharing your thoughts concerning the  
> proposed policy.  
>  
> Debra Kimbler  
> State GED Administrator  
>  
> ----- Original Message -----  
> From: Nobody <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>  
> Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008 12:46 pm  
> Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 12:41:15)  
> To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us, dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
>  
>  
> > Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
> > Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.  
> > The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
> > <http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
> > This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.  
> >  
> > Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 >  
> #####  
> #####  
> > Name: Mary Rose Axton  
> > Organization: WVIHY  
> > Email: [maxton@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:maxton@access.k12.wv.us)  
> > Title: Transition Specialist  
> > Address1: 15 Industrial Blvd  
> > Address2:  
> > City/State/Zip: Clarksburg, WV 26301 > Role: Professional

> Support > Posted: 2008-01-10 12:41:15 > Posted from IP:  
> 168.216.190.74 > >  
> > Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
> > -----  
> > Pg. 2 Paragraph 1  
> > This is not clear at to whether or not a 16 or 17 year old that  
> has > obtained his GED could return to school. If a county can count  
> a GED > graduate as a completer and they return to school and then  
> graduate  
>  
> > with a high school diploma are they counted again? If a student  
> drops > out of school and after 1 month takes and passes the GED are  
> they > permitted to return to school? Is this paragraph saying that a  
> student > may only return to school with out getting their GED?  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School  
>  
> > Equivalency Diploma  
> > -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
> > -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of  
> West  
> > Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma >  
> -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen  
> (18)  
> > Years of Age and Younger  
> > -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
> > -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
> > -----  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests  
> > Information and/or Center Violations >  
> -----  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
>

**Debra Kimbler**

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**From:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2008 9:44 PM  
**To:** nicolevint@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Policy 2444.4

Dear Nicole,  
Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes not only will benefit the GED candidates but the County Boards of Education with the dropout rate.

Your service as an ABE Instructor is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874

---

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####  
Name: NicoleVint  
Organization: Basic Education  
Email: [nicolevint@verizon.net](mailto:nicolevint@verizon.net)  
Title: ABE Instructor  
Address1: P.O. Box 1014  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Madison, WV 25130  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2008-01-09 14:38:51  
Posted from IP: 74.195.90.61

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

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Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
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I think it is a great idea for testing candidates to take the OPT prior to testing. This will increase the number of candidates who pass the test and increase the use of the ABE class rooms.

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

I like the idea of allowing the 16, 17, 18 year old students the opportunity to take the test - after being out of school for a month. I think this increases the success of more students following through with their reeducation and moving toward further education or vocational/work opportunities. Plus it would overall help the drop out rate by the high schools being able to count those who pass.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
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Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

**Debra Kimbler**

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 4:43 PM  
**To:** 'pattilbrown@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-18 10:06:07)

Good Afternoon Patti,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you prepare adults for the GED Tests. No longer requiring the GED candidates to pass the GED Tests within three years will greatly benefit the GED candidates. Furthermore, scores will only expire when GED Testing Service publishes a new series of GED Tests, approximately every ten (10) years. Therefore, your positive comment indicates that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Your concerns and comments throughout the years reflect your concerns for your students and program. Therefore, your service to the Kanawha County Adult Basic Education (ABE) is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----  
From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2007 10:06 AM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-18 10:06:07)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4  
#####  
Name: Patti Brown  
Organization:  
Email: [pattilbrown@gmail.com](mailto:pattilbrown@gmail.com)  
Title: ABE Instructor  
Address1: 1503 Coventry Lane  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25314  
Role: Teacher

Posted: 2007-12-18 10:06:07  
Posted from IP: 129.71.177.254

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

I like getting rid of the three year rule, but does that make it five?

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Great! This will make the life of instructors easier.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

## Debra Kimbler

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 3:07 PM  
**To:** 'principalrose@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-25 12:56:01)

Good Afternoon Raymond,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you work with the adult students daily. Please allow me to disclose the rationale for making the following change:

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

Have real concerns with the section that requires passage of the practice test as a condition to test. This may limit some of the applicants who are trying to work for a living. This is a time constraint they may not be able to handle. It should be highly recommended to pass the practice test...but not required. May discourage some from even attempting to get their GED.

Each year in West Virginia approximately 2,000 GED candidates do not pass the GED Tests. The majority of these candidates are not enrolled in an ABE class. They do not have an instructor to encourage them nor help them to understand that with preparation they are more likely to pass the GED. Therefore, by requiring the GED candidates to pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests will help to identify those students that need the help prior to testing.

I understand that many GED candidates have jobs and their time is limited. Nevertheless, the few hours required to take the OPT are minuscule compared to the four (4) years required to get a high school diploma.

Passing the OPT prior to taking the GED is more likely to produce a "successful GED graduate."

Thank you for your concern and your service as a GED Examiner for the West Virginia GED Testing Program.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 25, 2007 12:56 PM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us

Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-25 12:56:01)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.  
The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: raymond rose  
Organization: wcboe  
Email: [principalrose@yahoo.com](mailto:principalrose@yahoo.com)  
Title: chief examiner  
Address1: box 83 locust st  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: pineville, wv 24874  
Role: Business-Industry  
Posted: 2007-12-25 12:56:01  
Posted from IP: 72.65.135.150

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
Have real concerns with the section that requires passage of the practice test as a condition to test. This may limit some of the applicants who are trying to work for a living. This is a time constraint they may not be able to handle. It should be highly recommended to pass the practice test...but not required. May discourage some from even attempting to get their GED.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center  
Violations

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**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 9:35 AM  
**To:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Re: Comments Policy 2444.4

----- Original Message -----

From: <dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us>  
Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2008 9:29 pm  
Subject: Comments Policy 2444.4  
To: rfreeman@access.k12.wv.us

> Rhonda, Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the  
> proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment. Therefore,  
> your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes not only  
> will benefit the GED candidates but the County Boards of Education  
> with the dropout rate. Your service to West Virginia's education  
> process is greatly appreciated. Kindest regards, Debra Debra Kimbler,  
> State GED Administrator West Virginia Department of Education GED  
> Office Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 2501900 Kanawha Boulevard  
> East Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Phone (304) 558-6315 Fax (304)  
> 558-4874 Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us) Comment Received for Policy  
> 2444.4#####Name:  
> Rhonda Freeman Organization: teacher Email:  
> [rfreeman2@ACCESS.K12.WV.US](mailto:rfreeman2@ACCESS.K12.WV.US) Title: teacher Address1: Address2:  
> City/State/Zip: Nettie, WV 26681 Role: Teacher Posted: 2008-01-07  
> 19:47:14 Posted from IP: 207.69.140.22 Comments for section 126-31-1  
> General -----The  
> revisions to the policy seem to leave no excuse for getting the  
> equivalent of a high school diploma. I hope it makes our dropout rate  
> look better. Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia  
> High School Equivalency Diploma  
> ----- Comments for  
> section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
> ----- Comments for  
> section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High  
> School Equivalency Diploma  
> ----- Comments for  
> section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age  
> and Younger -----  
> Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
> ----- Comments for  
> section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
> ----- Comments for  
> section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or  
> Center Violations  
> -----  
>

## Debra Kimbler

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 2:18 PM  
**To:** 'deena.rippeto@bpd.treas.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-02 03:06:56)

Good Afternoon Ms. Rippeto,

I am afraid your comment concerning block scheduling was not intended for comments on the Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalence Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED) Tests (2444.4). I want your comments to be recorded on the correct policy; therefore, you may want to resubmit your comments to the intended policy.

Thank you for taking an interest in the education process for West Virginia.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 02, 2008 3:07 AM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-02 03:06:56)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.  
The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

**Name:** Deena Rippeto  
**Organization:** Public Debt  
**Email:** [deena.rippeto@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:deena.rippeto@bpd.treas.gov)  
**Title:** Program Analyst  
**Address1:** (residence) 30 Killdeer Lane  
**Address2:**  
**City/State/Zip:** Washington, WV 26181  
**Role:** Parent-Family  
**Posted:** 2008-01-02 03:06:56  
**Posted from IP:** 72.65.139.167

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
My children, nieces, and nephews have all done much better in school with the BLOCK scheduling. I would hope a survey for parents, students, and teachers will be taken before changing something that seems to be working much better for everyone. My son will be going to South next year and will be assisted with Special Ed. I have been anxiously waiting for him to attend South with the Block Scheduling and am now so very disheartened to hear it may be changed. Please take a survey or online vote of some type to get everyone's opinions.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

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Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing

-----  
Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

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Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger

-----  
Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence

-----  
Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores

-----  
Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations

**Debra Kimbler**

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 4:32 PM  
**To:** 'sjohns@access.k12.wv.us'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-18 11:05:28)

Good Afternoon SE Johnson,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since prepare adults for the GED Tests. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Your service to the RTC Adult Learning Center's GED preparation class is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2007 11:05 AM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-18 11:05:28)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
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The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
<http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: SE Johnson  
Organization: RTC (Adult Learning Center)  
Email: [sjohns@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:sjohns@access.k12.wv.us)  
Title: Instructor  
Address1: 200 Kennedy Drive  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Elkins , WV 26241  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2007-12-18 11:05:28  
Posted from IP: 168.216.158.86

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
All for the suspension of the three year completion rule. For some folks, it is just too hard to start all over again!!!

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

I like the idea that young students are required to take the OPT to help them determine which path is more appropriate--staying in school or getting a GED equivalency. I am also glad to see that eighteen year olds are not required to be out of school for three months because they are indeed an adult.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 2:09 PM  
**To:** 'shnjones@access.k12.wv.us'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-03 11:21:23)

Good Afternoon Shauna,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Once again your interest in the GED Testing process is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 03, 2008 11:21 AM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-03 11:21:23)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder. Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database. The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here: <http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4  
#####  
Name: Shauna Jons  
Organization: WVDE Office of Institutional Ed  
Email: [shnjones@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:shnjones@access.k12.wv.us)  
Title: School Counselor  
Address1: WV Children\'s Home School  
Address2: 109 Maple Street  
City/State/Zip: Elkins, WV 26241  
Role: Professional Support  
Posted: 2008-01-03 11:21:23  
Posted from IP: 168.216.231.70

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
Nothing to comment.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Approve.

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Approve.

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Approve.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Approve the removal of the "withdrawn for 3 months."  
Approve the removal of the need for documentation from a post-secondary employer, recruiter or educational representative.  
Highly approve 5.6.1 and 5.6.2; this will greatly help out with juvenile residential GED candidates.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Nothing to comment.

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Nothing to comment.

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

Nothing to comment.

## Debra Kimbler

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 1:30 PM  
**To:** 'ccs@citlink.net'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 17:07:44)

Good Afternoon Ms. Shumate,

I understand that the following email did not make it to your email address. I am sorry for the delay.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us

> Good Morning Ms. Shumate,

>  
> Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4.  
Please, allow me to answer some of your concerns:

>  
> Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West  
> > Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

> > -----  
> 4.3.I am somewhat confused by this section, even though there are no  
> > proposed changes except striking "and GEDTS." Does it mean that  
> > first-time GED test takers do not have to test in all 5 areas at once?  
> > If so, how does the new OPT requirement affect this section? Does a  
> > student have to pass only the sections of the OPT he/she plans to  
> > test in any one testing session, or does the entire OPT have to be  
> > passed before the student takes ANY of the GED tests?

>  
> GED Testing Service currently does not require that the GED candidates complete the five  
test batteries at the initial testing session. Nevertheless, in West Virginia first time GED  
testers must complete the five batteries of tests at the first testing session, which may  
consists of taking part of the test at one day and returning the next day to take the  
remaining batteries. After the initial testing session, the GED candidates may take only  
one or more test at a time to bring up scores to a passing level.

>  
> Therefore, the GED candidate must have a passing score in all five subjects of the OPT  
prior to testing.

>  
>  
> Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
> > -----  
> > Is there a minimum West Virginia residency period? If so, shouldn't

> > it be specified? I am also wondering about cases in which a person  
> > moves to WV from another state and wants to take the GED.  
>  
> West Virginia does not have a residency requirement. Therefore, a GED candidate is  
eligible to test in West Virginia after meeting the age requirements, providing a valid and  
current state-issued photo identification and hopefully in the near future passing the OPT.  
>  
> Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
> > -----  
> > I like the added confidentiality; however, doesn't the language  
> > here imply that the GED credential is "lesser" than a high school diploma?  
> > I know that this perception is often present in the public's mind,  
> > but I don't think we need to endorse that perception in the GED policy.  
>  
> The language by no means suggests that the GED is " 'lesser' than a high school diploma.  
The GED Tests are normed so that 40% of the graduating high school students cannot pass the  
GED Tests. Dropping out of school labels the individual as a "failure" and some adults do  
not want society to think of them as a "failure". Therefore, we must provide this  
confidentiality for the GED candidates.  
>  
> Your additional positive comments indicate that these changes will benefit the GED  
candidates.  
>  
> Debra Kimbler  
> State GED Administrator  
>  
> ----- Original Message -----  
> From: Nobody <nobody@wvde.state.wv.us>  
> Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008 5:07 pm  
> Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-10 17:07:44)  
> To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us, dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
>  
>  
> > Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.  
> > Your folder will be a backup. All comments are saved in our database.  
> > The Complete Comments Report from the database can be found here:  
> > <http://129.71.2.32/r.html?id=5c379eb4025252821d04d065802d8ff2>  
> > This is an encrypted URL. Please Bookmark it.  
> >  
> > Comment Received for Policy 2444.4  
> >  
> > #####  
> > #####  
> > Name: Annette Shumate  
> > Organization: Catholic Community Services/Eckman Learning Center  
> > Email: ccs@citlink.net  
> > Title: Director  
> > Address1: PO Box 162  
> > Address2:  
> > City/State/Zip: Eckman, WV 24829  
> > Role: Superintendent  
> > Posted: 2008-01-10 17:07:44  
> > Posted from IP: 74.34.150.59  
> >  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
> > -----

> > No comment  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School  
> > Equivalency Diploma  
> > -----  
> > No comment  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
> > -----  
> > No comment  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West  
> > Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
> > -----  
> > 4.42.The requirement that all GED test takers pass the OPT before  
> > taking the GED Tests is a good one. At the Eckman Learning Center,  
> > we have always required our students to pass the OPT before we send  
> > them to take the GED.  
> >  
> > 4.3.I am somewhat confused by this section, even though there are  
> > no proposed changes except striking "and GEDTS." Does it mean that  
> > first-time GED test takers do not have to test in all 5 areas at once?  
> > If so, how does the new OPT requirement affect this section? Does a  
> > student have to pass only the sections of the OPT he/she plans to  
> > test in any one testing session, or does the entire OPT have to be  
> > passed before the student takes ANY of the GED tests?  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18)  
> > Years of Age and Younger  
> > -----  
> > 5.2.3. Eliminating the 3-month waiting period is an excellent move.  
> > If an 18-year-old is ready to take the test before his/her class has  
> > graduated, there is no good reason to make him/her wait.  
> >  
> > 5.3.In our experience at the Eckman Learning Center, a good number  
> > of  
> > 16 and 17-year-olds can be ready to take the GED relatively quickly.  
> > Most 16-year-olds who have dropped out of high school do not want to  
> > attend GED classes for 2 years before taking the GED tests. Although  
> > I realize the original intent was to stem the high school drop-out  
> > rate, I don't think the previous policy made that much difference in  
> > the drop-out statistics. Instead, it keeps 16 and 17 year olds more  
> > or less idle for up to 2 years. As we see it, if a person already  
> > has the knowledge to pass the GED tests (which, as you probably  
> > know, are much more difficult than most test given in the high  
> > schools), it is simply punitive to force that person into  
> > educational limbo. With a GED, that person could go on to college or into the work force.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
> > -----  
> > Is there a minimum West Virginia residency period? If so, shouldn't  
> > it be specified? I am also wondering about cases in which a person  
> > moves to WV from another state and wants to take the GED.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
> > -----  
> > I like the added confidentiality; however, doesn't the language

> > here imply that the GED credential is "lesser" than a high school diploma?  
> > I know that this perception is often present in the public's mind,  
> > but I don't think we need to endorse that perception in the GED policy.  
> >  
> > Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests  
> > Information and/or Center Violations  
> > -----  
> > No comment  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >

--  
Fernando  
WVDE Webmaster  
<http://wvde.state.wv.us>

## Debra Kimbler

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 4:28 PM  
**To:** 'tmorris@access.k12.wv.us'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-19 08:46:50)

Good Afternoon Teresa,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since prepare adults for the GED Tests. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will benefit the GED candidates.

Your service to the Nicholas County GED preparation class is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 19, 2007 8:47 AM  
**To:** fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:** Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-19 08:46:50)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Teresa G. Morris  
Organization: Nicholas County Schools  
Email: [tmorris@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:tmorris@access.k12.wv.us)  
Title: Principal  
Address1: PO Box 288  
Address2: 1988 Dixie Highway  
City/State/Zip: Dixie, WV 25059  
Role: Principal  
Posted: 2007-12-19 08:46:50  
Posted from IP: 168.216.84.135

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

I am a principal and a GED Instructor. Parent involvement is essential for the students who are 18 years old and under. Parent involvement consistently improves academics.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Parent involvement is an advantage for students.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Students who live in a youth center should be able to take the test. Their age should not be the main factor. We should consider their circumstances.

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 4:05 PM  
**To:** 'cvandegr@access.k12.wv.us'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-20 13:17:46)

Good Afternoon Mr. Vandergrift,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you work with the adult students daily. Please allow me to disclose the rationale for making the following changes:

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

I concur that all testing candidates must pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Test in West Virginia.

Passing the OPT prior to taking the GED is more likely to produce a "successful GED graduate."

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

I believe the candidates under 18 years of age should continue to be required to provide a statement on official letterhead from an employer, military recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED Tests.

Many West Virginia GED candidates ages sixteen (16) to seventeen (17) are unable to secure either a letter from an employer, military, recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED Tests. This has proven to be more of a deterrent. Taking and passing the OPT is more relevant to being admitted to testing because most candidates cannot secure a job or enter into the military or enroll in secondary education without a GED.

Should still keep the requirement of the under 18 to be officially withdrawn for at least 6 months.

Prior to submitting the proposed Policy 2444.4 to the State Board of Education, GED Testing Service sent Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools, a memo stating the guidelines for testing sixteen (16), seventeen (17), and eighteen (18) year olds. The guidelines recommend passing the OPT prior to taking the GED Tests. Although GED Testing Service had no waiting time prior to testing, West Virginia's proposed Policy 2444.4 also requires the sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds to be withdrawn from school or homeschooled for one month prior to testing. Being out of school for one (1) month is time enough for a "cooling off period" and hopefully the student will decide to return to school. During the current requirement of waiting six (6) months prior to testing, many students are lost to society.

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Keep the section that states, "If the candidate does not pass the GED Tests while a participant in a residential government program, in order to continue testing upon release,

the examinee must qualify under sections 3.1., 3.2., 3.3., 4.1., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4, 5.1., 5.2., 5.3., ect.

The GED candidates testing at a residential government program were eligible to take the GED Tests while in the program. Nevertheless, under current GED Policy 2444.4, the candidates needing to retest in a given subject after completing the program must once again meet another set of requirements for eligibility. Many times these students are only ten (10) points away from obtaining a GED Diploma and may have to wait almost a year in order to become eligible to continue testing. Thus, causing a barrier to continue their education.

Thank you for the services that you have provided for the adult students at the Morgantown Adult Learning Center at MTEC.

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Nobody [mailto:nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]  
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2007 1:18 PM  
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2007-12-20 13:17:46)

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Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: CHARLES VANDEGRIFT  
Organization: MORGANTOWN ADULT LEARNING CENTER at MTEC  
Email: cvandegr@access....  
Title: ABE Instructor  
Address1: 1000 Mississippi Street  
Address2:  
City/State/Zip: Morgantown, WV 26501  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2007-12-20 13:17:46  
Posted from IP: 168.216.228.176

Comments for section 126-31-1 General

-----  
I concur that all testing candidates must pass the OPT prior to taking the GED Test in West Virginia.

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma

-----  
Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

I believe the candidates under 18 years of age should continue to be required to provide a statement on official letterhead from an employer, military recruiter, college admission officer, or vocational technical director evidencing acceptance/promotion of the candidate once he/she passes the GED Tests.

Should still keep the requirement of the under 18 to be officially withdrawn for at least 6 months.

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

Keep the section that states, "If the candidate does not pass the GED Tests while a participant in a residential government program, in order to continue testing upon release, the examinee must qualify under sections 3.1., 3.2., 3.3., 4.1., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4, 5.1., 5.2., 5.3., ect.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations  
-----

**Debra Kimbler**

---

**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2008 8:56 AM  
**To:** 'Vera Shockey'  
**Subject:** FW: Comment Received for Policy 2444.4 (2008-01-11 16:21:15)

Good Morning Vera,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the proposed Policy 2444.4. We greatly value your assessment since you are an ABE instructor and work with GED candidates daily. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed changes will definitely benefit the GED candidates.

Your years of service to the ABE program is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Debra

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874  
Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

Comment Received for Policy 2444.4

#####

Name: Vera Shockey  
Organization: South Branch Career & Technical Center  
Email: [vshocke1@eastern.wvnet.edu](mailto:vshocke1@eastern.wvnet.edu)  
Title: Adult Basic Education Instructor, Hardy County  
Address1: Eastern WV Community & Technical College  
Address2: 1929 State Rd. 55  
City/State/Zip: Moorefield, WV 26836  
Role: Teacher  
Posted: 2008-01-11 16:21:15  
Posted from IP: 129.71.112.32

Comments for section 126-31-1 General  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-2 State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-3 Applying for Testing  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-4 Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School  
Equivalency Diploma  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-5 Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger  
-----

I agree with the proposed changes of letting 16 & 17 year olds test after being out of school  
one month and passing the OPT. As an ABE instructor, I see many students who can pass the  
GED, but become discouraged because of having to wait.  
I also agree to suspend the requirement for 17 year olds to have a letter from an employer,  
military, or college.

Comments for section 126-32-6 Residence  
-----

Comments for section 126-32-7 Transcripts of Scores  
-----

I also agree that the three-year completion rule should be suspended. I have a student whose  
three years is almost up, and she has not passed one of her tests. She is trying very hard  
to pass. I would hate for her to have to start all over again.

Comments for section 126-32-8 Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center  
Violations  
-----



**West Virginia**  
**Department of Education**

*Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools*  
*1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building*  
*Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0331*  
*Phone: 304-558-268*  
*Fax: 304-558-0048*  
<http://wvde.state.wv.us>

January 25, 2008

Harold Walker  
1028 Marina Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526

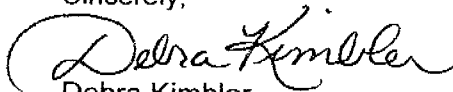
Dear Harold,

I received your fax concerning Policy 2444.4 Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

I greatly value your assessment since you have been a GED Examiner many years. Therefore, your positive comments, agreeing 100% with all changes, indicate that these proposed modifications will definitely benefit the GED candidates.

Your years of service to the GED Testing process are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Debra Kimbler  
State GED Administrator

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### ONLINE COMMENT FORM

## POLICY 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests

AntiSpam Measure

8 + 12 = 20

This is to prevent spammers from using computer software to submit spam on this form. If you don't answer this correctly we'll assume you are spamming and your comments will not be accepted.

Name: Harold Walker

Organization: Garnet Career Center

Email: sugwalker@suddenlink.com

Title:

Address Line 1: 1028 Marina Drive

Address Line 2:

City: Hurricane

State: WV

Zip: 25526

**Select the Box that best describes your role:**

Superintendent

School System Staff

Parent/Family

Principal

Teacher

Business/Industry

Professional Support Staff

Service Personnel

Community Member

section 126-31-1. General.

TO: Debra Kimbler

From: Harold Walker

Re: Policy 2444.4

Number of pages including cover sheet -4

In Favor of this Section

**section 126-32-2. State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.**

In favor of this Section

**section 126-32-3. Applying for Testing.**

In favor of section 126-32-3.

**section 126-32-4. Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.**

In favor of changes to section 126-32-4.

**section 126-32-5. Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger.**

In favor of all changes to section 126-32-5.

**section 126-32-6. Residence.**

In favor of section 126-32-6.

**section 126-32-7. Transcripts of Scores.**



**West Virginia**  
**Department of Education**

*Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools*  
*1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6*  
*Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330*  
*Phone: 304-558-2681*  
*Fax: 304-558-0048*

<http://wvde.state.wv.us>

January 25, 2008

Vicky Buell, Coordinator of Education for Juvenile Facilities  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 728  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., E  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

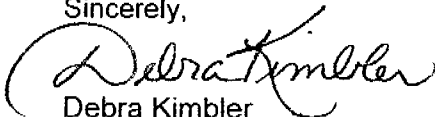
Dear Vicky,

I received your fax concerning Policy 2444.4 Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

I greatly value your assessment since you have been a GED Examiner many years and are the Coordinator of Education for Juvenile Facilities; who best would know the needs of your students. Therefore, your positive comments indicate that these proposed modifications will definitely benefit the GED candidates placed in your facilities.

Your years of service to the GED Testing process are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Debra Kimbler  
State GED Administrator

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2007-2008

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**POLICY 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests**

**COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: January 14, 2008**

**COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests

Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name : Vicki Buell Organization: WVDE/OIEP

Title: Coordinator of Education for Juvenile Facilities

Street Address: Bldg .6 , Room 728

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- School System Superintendent       School System Staff       Parent/Family
- Principal       Teacher       Business/Industry
- Professional Support Staff       Service Personnel       Community Member

| <b>COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS</b>  |
|--|
| <p><b>§126-31-1. General.</b></p><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>  |
| <p><b>§126-32-2. State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.</b></p><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br> |



**West Virginia**  
**Department of Education**

*Dr. Steven L. Paine, State Superintendent of Schools*  
*1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6*  
*Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330*  
*Phone: 304-558-2681*  
*Fax: 304-558-0048*  
<http://wvde.state.wv.us>

January 25, 2008

Marie Justiss  
125 Sherman Avenue  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26501

Dear Ms. Justiss:

I received your fax concerning Policy 2444.4 Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

I was pleased to hear from a concerned parent. Since you have a daughter who has experienced illnesses throughout the years and is pursuing a GED, your thoughts gave a different perspective on the changes being proposed for Policy 2444.4. Your positive remarks indicate that these proposed changes will not only benefit your daughter but other sixteen (16), seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) year olds needing a high school diploma.

I wish your daughter the best in your future educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

Debra Kimbler  
State GED Administrator

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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Delores W. Cook, President; Priscilla M. Haden, Vice President; Ronald B. Spencer, Secretary  
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Brian E. Noland, Ex Officio; James L. Skidmore, Ex Officio; Steven L. Paine, Ex Officio

126CSR32

**§126-32-8. Falsification of GED Tests Information and/or Center Violations.**

Please direct all comments to:

Debra Kimbler, Coordinator  
GED Office  
West Virginia Department of Education  
Capitol Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330  
E-Mail Address: [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)  
Fax No.: (304) 558-4874.

*6 pages including cover*

126CSR32

**POLICY 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests**

**COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: January 14, 2008**

**COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 2444.4: Issuance of the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma Based Upon Passage of the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests

Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: Marie Justiss Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: parents /

Street Address: 125 Sherman Ave

City: Morgantown State: WV Zip: 26501

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- School System Superintendent
- School System Staff
- Parent/Family
- Principal
- Teacher
- Business/Industry
- Professional Support Staff
- Service Personnel
- Community Member

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

**§126-31-1. General.**

As a parent and a staff, I have had experience with students who are intelligent and motivated but do not do well in the traditional secondary school setting. I have believed for years there should be an alternative provided to them.

**§126-32-2. State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.**

Through my research, I have been told twice that only 40% of high school graduates would be able to pass this GED.

I would think that passing the GED would be impressive to any college or university. (THE OTHER THOUGHT THAT HAS CROSSED MY MIND - "What are we not doing...")

## 126CSR32

§126-32-3. Applying for Testing.

*All seems Adequate & reasonable.*

§126-32-4. Basis for Granting the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.

*All seems adequate & reasonable.*

§126-32-5. Testing of Individuals Eighteen (18) Years of Age and Younger.

*see Additional papers*

§126-32-6. Residence. *All is reasonable*

§126-32-7. Transcripts of Scores.

- 1 -

126-32-5-3 -

My daughter is a bright 16yo. She has been plagued w chronic tonsillitis which has caused her to miss many days since middle school. In spite of medical visits her problems continued ongoingly.

In her high school years 9th grade she suffered from depression. She was out of school for over a month. Even though she was under the care of a physician - she still had a difficult time in some of her Honors classes. Her presence was required and she had excused absences, she ended up failing her class. She received good grades in most of her other classes.

This past year she was very ill w a serious case of tonsillitis starting in beginning of sept. She missed most of her 1st 9 weeks due to illness & physician finally decided to remove tonsils end of Oct. 07. She did not return to school until a few day prior to Thanksgiving.

Given all her illnesses & difficulty with depression, it was quite difficult for her to return to school.

When speaking with the school, it was determined she might possibly have to continue her education beyond her graduating class. This even created a more stressful situation for her.

Emily prepared & took her ACT Dec 8, 2007

-2-

and scored a 24 Composite. I have been struggling with the fact of my daughter not completing traditional high school.

However to do what is best for her mental health I had to make decisions in order for her to be successful.

Traditional school is not the answer for my daughter. The stress I have felt due to the difficulty of attempting to keep her caught up has created great problems. The labels that are given to students who do not fit in a traditional setting are also upsetting. People tell me I am not tough enough or should be more strict. The truth is no one knows the complexity of her situation & it is frustrating that one judgement prevails. I have older children & younger children & believe I am quite realistic and responsible in my parenting.

There needs to be an answer for these students who can not participate in traditional setting. Lifting those barriers in the policy would definitely be beneficial to my daughter's mental health & well being.

She is working and responsible in many ways. The barriers we have come across have created a feeling of frustration & inadequacy in both of us.

- 3 -

Please pass the policy change so my daughter will be able to take her GED and get to college by next fall. She is motivated & will perform well.

Thank-you

HP Officejet 7210  
Personal Printer/Fax/Copier/Scanner

Log for  
sfisher  
304-588-4874  
Jan 11 2008 10:20AM

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Last Transaction

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Identification</u> | <u>Duration</u> | <u>Pages</u> | <u>Result</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Jan 11      | 10:18AM     | Received    | 13042849362           | 1:48            | 6            | OK            |

## Debra Kimbler

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**From:** Debra Kimbler [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2008 10:00 AM  
**To:** 'Angela Curran'  
**Subject:** RE:

Good Morning Angela,

Thank you for taking the time to share the proposed GED changes with your staff.

Currently and with the proposed policy changes, the 16, 17 and 18 year old dropouts who pass the GED are taken off the dropout list and placed on the completers list. The completers are not counted in the graduation rate. I am not aware that the GED candidates attending classes were not counted as a dropout.

All candidates, meeting the age requirements for attending school, may return to school to obtain a high school diploma.

Kindest regards,

**Debra**

Debra Kimbler, State GED Administrator  
West Virginia Department of Education  
GED Office  
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 250  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone (304) 558-6315  
Fax (304) 558-4874

Email [dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us)

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**From:** Angela Curran [mailto:acurran@djs.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2008 10:17 AM  
**To:** dkimbler@access.k12.wv.us  
**Subject:**



Debbie,

Could you clarify what is meant in this paragraph of the new proposals for the policy 2444.4 for GED Testing.

I have highlighted the area that has caused some questions with our staff.

Require the seventeen (17) year old and the sixteen (16) year old to be withdrawn from the public school system for one month since this amount of time allows ample time for the seventeen (17) year old and the sixteen (16) year old GED candidate to decide to return to the regular classroom. Until sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds are required to remain in school or until the GED Option is adopted by the West Virginia Board of Education, a second opportunity to obtain a high school diploma should be available. In addition, obtaining a GED diploma helps counties to count the GED graduate as a completer rather than a dropout, thus aiding counties with their dropout rates. (See Section 5.3.)

How will GED completers be counted by the county for dropout rates? I know in the past student who joined a GED Class was not counted in the dropout rate for the year.

Will they be counted as the number of graduates for the county? Will students who test in a correctional facility and pass the test be able to return to public school to seek a high school diploma?

Thank you

*Angela B. Curran*