



GUIDELINES TO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND EQUIVALENTS

TO MEET MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

The requirement for completion of high school can be met through a number of options, as described below: High School Diploma, Home School Diploma, Adult High School Diploma, GED Credential.

For additional assistance, please visit the **Provider / Professional Development** section of the North Carolina Division of Child Development website at www.ncchildcare.net.

High School Diploma: this award recognizes completion of all state and local graduation requirements from regionally accredited high schools. The diploma may indicate a track (college prep, technical, occupational, etc.) that the student took to meet requirements. The diploma awarded is the same, regardless of the track taken.

High School Accreditation: high schools issuing diplomas must have nationally recognized **regional accreditation** in the United States. This is generally true for public high schools. It may or may not be true for private schools, including online and correspondence high schools. Diplomas from high schools without regional accreditation are not recognized by the Division of Child Development. *An exception will be made when the high school is listed with the NC Division of Non-Public Education for the school year when the applicant graduated.*

The recognized regional accrediting bodies for high school diplomas (and the geographic regions they serve) are:

North Central and Southern Association CASI (commission on accreditation and school improvement) http://www.advanc-ed.org/schools_districts/
Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia

Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools <http://www.css-msa.org/>
Delaware, the District of Columbia (D.C), Maryland, New Jersey, New York,
Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

New England Commission on Public Secondary Schools <http://cpss.neasc.org/> and
New England Commission on Independent Schools <http://cis.neasc.org/> (such as
traditional boarding and day preparatory schools, private elementary schools, schools
serving students with special needs, and religiously affiliated schools of many faiths)
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont

Western Association of Schools and Colleges <http://www.wascweb.org/> (secondary
schools are listed under The Accrediting Commission for Schools)
California and Hawaii, the territories of Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of
Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the
Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and areas of the Pacific and East Asia where
American/International schools or colleges may apply to it for service

Northwest Association of Accredited Schools
<http://www.northwestaccreditation.org/schools/accredited.html> (distance education,
elementary, foreign nation, high, K-12, middle level, post secondary non-degree granting,
residential, special purpose, supplementary education and travel education schools)
Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Graduation Certificate and Certificate of Achievement: these are high school
exit documents for students who do not meet the requirements for a diploma.
These documents are NOT recognized as high school diplomas or equivalents.

Home School Diploma: this diploma is issued by a non-public school where the
student receives academic instruction from his/her parent, legal guardian, or a member of
the household in which the student resides. The chief administrator of the home school
issues the diploma.

What is a legitimate home school?

The NC Division of Non-Public Education is authorized by state law to receive
home school notices of intent to begin initial operation and to terminate operation,
and to annually inspect the school's student attendance and nationally
standardized achievement test result records. They provide a list of home schools
by county at this website: <http://www.ncdnpe.org/hhh301.htm>

Adult High School Diploma (Adult HSD): this diploma is issued through the
community college system in most states. There are exceptions, and other colleges could

be approved to issue adult high school diplomas. Colleges issuing adult high school diplomas must have **nationally recognized regional accreditation** in the United States.

The nationally recognized regional accrediting bodies for colleges (and the geographic regions they serve) are:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools www.msche.org
Delaware, the District of Columbia (D.C), Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges www.neasc.org
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities www.nwccu.org
Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools www.sacscoc.org
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges www.wascweb.org (senior colleges and universities) and www.accjc.org (community and junior colleges)
California and Hawaii, the territories of Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and areas of the Pacific and East Asia where American/International schools or colleges may apply to it for service

GED (General Education Development) Credential: the GED Tests measure the academic skills and knowledge expected of high school graduates in the United States. Successfully passing the tests results in award of a GED credential (which may be called a diploma, certificate, credential, or endorsement).

- The only official GED is given by the GED TESTING SERVICE and its approved sites. All approved testing locations are listed at www.GEDtest.org.
- The official GED is **not offered online via the internet**. Currently the GED is a paper and pencil test only. The GED test is a series of 5 tests covering different subjects and takes 7 hours to complete.

