

# Adult Education Administrative Code Revisions

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Please note that this PowerPoint presentation has been modified from its original version to be more accessible.

# Purpose

- Review and revise regulations to ensure application and reflect current practice
- Define the role of the New Jersey Department of Education in the pathways to obtain a New Jersey high school diploma



# Timeline

**June 3, 2020**

First Discussion

**July 1, 2020**

Second Discussion

**August 5, 2020**

Proposal



# Proposed Changes

## 1. Technical Changes

- Deleted rules that are no longer relevant or the responsibility no longer belongs to the New Jersey Department of Education
- Clarifications – the prior rules were confusing or unclear
- Grammar/Formatting
- Updated terminology and definitions – prior rules used outdated terminology and definitions that are not in line with current practice and other chapters of code

## 2. Substantive changes (to be discussed in upcoming slides)



# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – First Pathway (1 of 3)

The first pathway allows persons age 16 years or older who are no longer enrolled in school and are residents of the State of New Jersey to earn a state-issued high school diploma by taking and passing a New Jersey High School Equivalency Assessment (NJHSEA).



# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – First Pathway (2 of 3)

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## **Addition (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.3*, Eligibility requirements)**

A person must be a New Jersey resident and not have obtained a high school diploma in New Jersey or any other state. This proposed amendment is necessary because persons who are not residents of New Jersey or already have a high school diploma apply for a state-issued high school diploma even though they are ineligible.

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## **Modification (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.2*, Definitions)**

An NJHSEA means any of the assessments approved by the State Board of Education for achieving a New Jersey state-issued high school diploma. It is no longer just the General Education Development (GED) test, but also includes the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), and Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) assessments.



# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – First Pathway (3 of 3)

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## **Deletion (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.6*, Monitoring)**

The Department proposes to delete *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.6*, which requires the Department to monitor programs described in the chapter and sets forth monitoring procedures. The section is no longer necessary because the NJDOL is responsible for the monitoring of adult education programs that receive Title II funding under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as required by federal regulations. The section was not deleted as part of the readoption in 2013 due to an oversight.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Second Pathway (1 of 3)

The second pathway enables persons age 16 years or older who are no longer enrolled in high school and are New Jersey residents to earn a state-issued high school diploma based on the evaluation of 30 credits of college coursework. The Department evaluates the college coursework and provides the state-issued high school diploma.





# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Second Pathway (2 of 3)

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**Addition (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4(a)2*,  
Application, evaluation, and  
validation)**

The Department proposes to require a person to submit to the Department a signed Commissioner-provided application (<https://bit.ly/2M7m0aG>) and documentation of New Jersey residency as set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(a)*, which sets forth the types of documents that a district board of education must accept to establish a student's residency in a school district.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Second Pathway (3 of 3)

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## **Deletion (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4(b)*), Application, evaluation, and validation)**

The Department proposes to delete *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4(b)*, which requires persons seeking to qualify for a state-issued high school diploma as outlined in the section to be at least 16 years of age and out of school, because this is already stated in the eligibility rules at *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.3*. The rule also allows the Commissioner to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis for persons under 16 years of age who have otherwise met all state high school graduation requirements and based on extraordinary academic or personal achievement. The Department proposes to delete this provision because state law does not specify that state-issued high school diplomas can be awarded to persons under 16 years of age and such requests in recent history have all been denied.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (1 of 7)

The third pathway allows persons age 16 years or older to earn a state-endorsed diploma by attending and graduating from one of the 11 adult high schools in New Jersey. District boards of education operate the adult high school and award a state-endorsed high school diploma to adult high school graduates.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (2 of 7)

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## **Modification (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.2,* Definitions)**

The Department proposes amendments to the definition of “adult high school,” which means a district board of education school that conducts supervised educational activities in the day or evening to provide person 18 years of age or older with the necessary instruction to enable them to complete the requirements for a locally issued, state-endorsed diploma. The Department proposes to replace “18 years of age” with “who are 16 years of age or older and no longer enrolled in high school” because persons who are at least 16 years of age can earn a high school diploma under the chapter’s provisions if they meet certain requirements.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (3 of 7)

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## **Addition (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.2*, Definitions)**

The Department proposes to add “[e]ach adult high school has a separate County District School (CDS) System code from the school district” at the end to indicate that an adult high school is another high school within a school district that follows all state and local requirements.

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## **Deletion (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.2(a)2*, Eligibility for Enrollment)**

The Department proposes to delete *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.2(a)2*, which requires a person to meet the age and out-of-school requirements at *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.3* to be eligible to enroll in an adult high school. The out-of-school requirement is being deleted because the district board of education operating an adult high school has the discretion to allow students 16 years of age or older to transfer to the adult high school rather than officially drop out of the traditional high school before enrolling in the adult high school.



# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (4 of 7)

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## **Modification (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(b)2*, English language learners and individuals with disabilities)**

The Department proposes an amendment at *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(b)2*, which provides that an Individualized Education Program (IEP) of an adult applying to an adult high school may not serve as a guide for the adult’s instructional program at the adult high school if the evaluation was made more than three years prior to the application. The Department proposes to add “[t]he individual shall be referred to the IEP team for a reevaluation in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:14*, Special Education.” The proposed amendment will align the rule with the requirements at *N.J.A.C. 6A:14*.



# Overview of Chapter 20 – Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (5 of 7)

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## **Addition (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(b)2*, English language learners and individuals with disabilities)**

The Department proposes new *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(c)* to require the principal of the adult high school to request from the high school of last attendance, with the individual's consent, the most recent 504 plan for an individual with a previous 504 plan now seeking similar services at an adult high school, provided the evaluation was conducted within the last year. The proposed rule also will require a determination to be made by the school district if the 504 plan needs to continue, be discontinued, and/or be updated. The proposed rule will aid individuals who had a 504 plan in the past.



# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (6 of 7)

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## **Modification (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(b)2*, English language learners and individuals with disabilities)**

The Department proposes amendments at new *N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.3(d)*, which requires adults without previous experience in special education programs or individuals with IEPs that are older than three years to be counseled regarding educational options that would lead to high school graduation. The Department proposes to replace the rule with “[a]n individual with a disability who does not qualify for special education and related services, pursuant to (b) above and *N.J.A.C. 6A:14*, and who does not have a previous 504 plan shall be counseled regarding educational options that would lead to a high school diploma.” The rule, as proposed for amendment, will ensure that an individual with a disability who may no longer qualify for services under *N.J.A.C. 6A:14* (that is, individuals who are beyond the age of 21) and do not have a previous 504 plan receive appropriate guidance as to the paths that lead to a high school diploma. The proposed amendments also take into account that an individual who no longer qualifies for special education services due to his or her age, or who has a disability but did not previously have a 504 plan, could receive accommodations in an adult high school under a 504 plan.





# Overview of Chapter 20: Pathways to High School Diploma Substantive Changes – Third Pathway (7 of 7)

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## **Deletion (*N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.10*, Monitoring)**

The Department proposes to delete section N.J.A.C. 6A:20-2.10 because the monitoring of adult education programs in adult high schools is no longer the responsibility of the Adult Education Unit within the Department. The evaluation of adult high schools is part of the Department's monitoring of school districts under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC). Under NJQSAC, school districts are evaluated in five key component areas of school district effectiveness — Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance — to determine the extent to which school districts are providing a thorough and efficient education. Adult high schools, which follow the same credit and programmatic requirements and issue the same state-endorsed high school diploma as traditional high schools in a school district, are part of the Department's monitoring in exactly the same manner as any high school in the same school district.

