

**Guidance Document for Implementation of
The General Achievement Diploma**

Basis for the Guidelines:

The Board of Education, at its meeting on June 23, 2003, approved Emergency Regulations Governing the General Achievement Diploma as required by House Bill 1464 passed by the 2003 General Assembly.

Age Requirement:

Individuals who 1) are at least 18 years of age and not enrolled in public school or 2) are otherwise excused from compulsory attendance requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia §22.1-254 shall be eligible to earn the General Achievement Diploma. There is no upper age limit for receiving the General Achievement Diploma.

Assessment Requirement:

The American Council on Education, which develops the GED examination, does not allow persons under the age of 18 who are required to meet the compulsory attendance requirements to take the GED examinations except for certain situations including students who are in an ISAEF track or certain students who are home schooled.

The student must achieve a passing score on the General Educational Development (GED) examination. The student is responsible for arranging to take the GED examination. The student is also responsible for payment of examination fees. Additional information about the GED examination can be found at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/Adult/ged.html>

Courses:

Any course approved to satisfy the graduation requirements for any Board-approved diploma can be used to meet the course requirements established for the General Achievement Diploma. As stated in the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*, the diplomas are the Standard Diploma, the Advanced Studies Diploma, and the Modified Standard

Diploma. The Board-approved courses can be found at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/webcrses.html>. The acceptability of courses completed outside of public schools shall be determined in the same manner as it is determined for all students who transfer to public schools.

Issuing the Diploma:

The General Achievement diploma is a Board-recognized diploma. School divisions are responsible for determining the manner in which the diploma will be awarded. School divisions will evaluate transcripts presented by students to assure students meet the established course requirements and will validate attainment of a passing score on the GED. Students who pass the GED will continue to receive the GED certificate issued by the Department of Education even if they do not meet the requirements for a General Achievement Diploma.