

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0054

High school equivalency certificate.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to high school graduation requirements;
 2 replacing the general educational development (GED)
 3 equivalency diploma with the high school equivalency
 4 certificate; imposing duties on the Wyoming community
 5 college commission; granting rulemaking authority; and
 6 providing for effective dates.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-1301(a) (xvi),
 11 21-16-1308(b) (intro), (iv) (intro), (A), (C) (intro) and
 12 (c) (ii) and 21-18-105(c) (ii) are amended to read:

13

14 **21-16-1301. Definitions.**

15

16 (a) As used in this article:

17

1 (xvi) "Semester hour" means each nonremedial
2 semester hour attempted for credit toward a degree or
3 certificate, excluding any semester hour attempted before
4 earning a high school diploma or a ~~general educational~~
5 ~~development~~ ~~(GED)~~ high school equivalency ~~diploma~~
6 certificate;

7
8 **21-16-1308. Administration; rules and regulations.**

9
10 (b) The department shall, in consultation with
11 University of Wyoming and community college admissions
12 officers, the Wyoming community college commission and
13 financial aid officers and school districts, promulgate
14 rules and regulations necessary to implement this article,
15 including:

16
17 (iv) Criteria and procedures under which
18 students who receive a ~~general educational development~~
19 ~~(GED)~~ high school equivalency ~~diploma~~ certificate can
20 qualify for scholarships under this article. A student
21 receiving a ~~GED~~ high school equivalency certificate shall:

22
23 (A) Receive the ~~GED~~ certificate and make
24 application for the initial scholarship no later than two

1 (2) years after and no sooner than the graduation date of
2 the student's high school class, unless ordered by a court
3 to complete the requirements for ~~a GED~~ the certificate
4 prior to that graduation date or for other good cause shown
5 as determined by the department. The student shall have
6 attended an eligible high school prior to receiving his ~~GED~~
7 certificate and shall have received his ~~GED~~ certificate
8 while residing in Wyoming;

9
10 (C) If otherwise eligible, be eligible for
11 a scholarship ~~as follows:~~ at scores under alternative
12 instruments included within the high school equivalency
13 certificate, as set by rule and regulation of the Wyoming
14 community college commission, which are comparable to ACT
15 scores and GPA requirements specified under W.S. 21-16-1304
16 corresponding to the applicable Hathaway opportunity,
17 performance and honor scholarship or under W.S. 21-16-1305
18 corresponding to the Hathaway provisional opportunity
19 scholarship.

20
21 (c) The department shall establish annual reporting
22 procedures for purposes of policy analysis and program
23 evaluation and providing accurate data to the legislature
24 and governor relative to the program's impact on the state

1 and on students. In developing the annual reporting
2 procedure the department shall consult with the University
3 of Wyoming and community college financial aid officers and
4 registrars or their designees. It is the intention of the
5 legislature that the reporting system and the requirements
6 thereof shall be applicable to all recipients of
7 scholarships under this article. Compliance with this
8 section shall be made a condition of receiving a
9 scholarship under this article. For any student attending
10 more than one (1) eligible institution, the home
11 institution shall be responsible for data reporting for
12 that student, and any other eligible institution shall
13 cooperate as necessary with the home institution to fulfill
14 that duty. The reporting system shall include the following
15 information:

16

17 (ii) Scholarships by students as they progress
18 from semester to semester or other equivalent periods of
19 time as may be applicable once enrolled at an eligible
20 institution. The data shall be reported by institution
21 attended, by the instructional program, and by scholarship
22 category and shall include the percent of students losing
23 scholarship eligibility due to not earning the minimum
24 number of credit hours, the percent of students losing

1 scholarship eligibility due to not having the required
2 cumulative grade point average, the percent of students
3 losing scholarship eligibility for failing to make
4 satisfactory academic progress and the percentage of
5 students losing scholarship eligibility for failing to
6 enroll. The same information shall also be reported by
7 categories showing those students qualifying through
8 WORKKEYS scores and ~~GED~~-scores on high school equivalency
9 certification, and by the group of students who attended a
10 home-based educational program and did not graduate from an
11 eligible high school;

12

13 **21-18-105. Budget authority.**

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15 (c) In addition to subsection (a) of this section,
16 the community college commission shall administer and shall
17 include in its budget request funding for the following
18 programs:

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20 (ii) ~~General educational development~~ High school
21 equivalency certification program.

22

23 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-16-1308(b)(iv)(C)(I) through (III)
24 is repealed.

1

2 **Section 3.** The Wyoming community college commission
3 shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing
4 alternative instruments comprising the state-authorized
5 examination for determining certification of the
6 equivalency of a high school diploma in sufficient time for
7 use in the 2013-2014 academic year. In addition,
8 commission rules and regulations shall set qualifying
9 scores for the different Hathaway scholarships as required
10 under W.S. 21-16-1308(b)(iv)(C), as amended by section 1 of
11 this act.

12

13 **Section 4.**

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15 (a) Except as provided by subsection (b) of this
16 section, this act is effective July 1, 2013.

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18 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,
19 section 3 of this act is effective immediately upon
20 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
21 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
22 Constitution.

23

24

(END)