

SERIES 2000-2001

CIRCULAR LETTER: C-11

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Adult Education

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: October 23, 2000

SUBJECT: Impact of the Changes in the GED Test for 2002 on Connecticut Residents
And Adult Education Programs

Since 1967, individuals in Connecticut have been able to earn a Connecticut State High School Diploma by successfully passing the Tests of General Educational Development (GED). Since then, over 125,000 Connecticut residents have earned a diploma in this manner. In January 2002, the GED Testing Service in Washington, DC will release a new series of GED Tests - GED 2002 - to replace the current 1988 edition of the GED Tests. The release of GED 2002 will significantly influence GED test-takers in Connecticut in two ways.

First, the GED Tests scheduled for release on January 1, 2002 will be completely restructured. The new GED Tests will more clearly align to the standards developed by the states to measure student attainment of necessary skills; therefore, making it a credible option for states to award a high school credential. Because of the changes in the test, the scores earned on the current and previous tests cannot be combined with scores from the new tests. For example, in the past, individuals who took an earlier version and had had partial passing scores on any of the five sub-tests could carry over these scores into the newer version of the GED Test. Effective January 1, 2002 this will no longer be an option.

Adults in Connecticut who are currently working toward their GED diploma will have until the last day of testing in December 2001 to successfully complete and pass the current edition of the GED Tests to be eligible for the Connecticut State High School Diploma based on the scores from this test. **Therefore, any GED candidate who has not successfully completed the GED Tests by January 1, 2002 must start again with the 2002 Series GED Tests to qualify for a Connecticut State High School Diploma.**

Secondly, the GED Testing Service has adopted a policy that September 30, 2001 will be the last date for GED candidates to initiate testing with the current 1988 Series GED Tests. **The GED Tests being administered in Connecticut from October 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 will be made available to only those individuals who have been previously tested. No first time GED test takers will be allowed to test during this period.** This schedule allows candidates who had previously tested the opportunity to retest and successfully pass the 1988 Series GED Test. As a result, persons who have not yet begun taking the battery of five tests, but who are planning to do so, must begin testing before September 30, 2001 and earn the scores needed to qualify for a diploma before the December cut-off date.

We realize that the implementation of these changes will have significant impact on school districts, adult education programs and students, and GED test takers in Connecticut. Therefore, it is important that guidance counselors in your school district are aware of the changes in the GED Test for 2002 and that students who are considering leaving school should be advised that the GED Test is not now and will not

Circular Letter: C-11
October 23, 2000
Page 2

become a quick path to a high school diploma. Adult education administrators should inform students of the changes in the test administration policy for 2001, post-test all students with the Official GED Practice Test to assess their ability to pass the GED Test, and make certain that all appropriate documentation is provided when individuals register at their site to take the GED Test. All individuals seventeen years of age or older who register to take the GED Test must have documentation that they have been withdrawn from school for six months or that their high school class has graduated.

To ensure that all individuals are notified of these changes and have sufficient opportunity to take the GED Tests, the State Department of Education will work with local education agencies and test sites to ensure that the following measures are put into place:

- GED candidates taking the test will be notified of these changes beginning in October 2000 via correspondence, requiring a signature, attached to the notice of examination card;
- GED Tests will be administered on a monthly basis beginning in July 2001 at all test sites across the state;
- GED preparation classes will be provided in the summer of 2001 at a majority of adult education programs;
- GED posters advertising the deadline and the loss of old test scores are being provided to all adult education programs, GED registration sites, and GED test sites and should be prominently displayed;
- Adult education brochures will contain a notice of the change in the GED Test administration process documenting the September 30, 2001 deadline for initial test-takers;
- Press releases will be placed in major newspapers throughout the state notifying the public of these changes; and
- Special administrations of the GED Test will be provided under the auspices of the Department on an as needed basis during the last six months of 2001.

I have attached for your information the press release that will be published in October 2000. If you have any questions regarding this information, contact Roberta Pawloski at (860) 807-2100 or Carl Paternostro at (860) 807-2111.

TSS:RPp

Attachment

cc: G. Coleman
R. Pawloski
C. Paternostro