

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item

August 19, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-6.021, State of Florida High School Diplomas

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.02(1), 1003.435(1), (5), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rule 6A-6.021, State of Florida High School Diplomas, establishes the standards and processes for the administration of the General Educational Development (GED) Test as a high school equivalency examination in accordance with the policies and procedures of the American Council on Education. This rule includes the fee schedule (approved in 1998) to be collected by each school board, college, or agency administering the GED Tests. Revenue to support GED testing operations and administration at the state and local level is generated exclusively from fees charged to individuals who take the GED test at one of the 85 approved testing centers.

Fees to be remitted to the Department by the testing centers are also prescribed in the rule. These fees are to support the mandatory operational costs, specifically staff salaries, benefits and occasional travel to perform duties relating to GED scoring, purchasing GED test booklets and test materials, diploma and transcript printing and mailing, and certification and monitoring of official testing centers. Fees retained by the testing centers are utilized for salaries and benefits for chief examiners, examiners, proctors, and clerical support as well as local contract fees, shipping, printing, and supplies.

The cost for the GED testing materials has risen by 67% since the last time fees were increased in 1998. To address a growing deficit, the Department recommends increasing the fees for the full test battery to not more than \$70 (from \$50); for retaking the Social Studies, Science, Reading, or Mathematics subtests not more than \$14 (from \$10); and for retaking the Writing Skills subtest not more than \$16 (from \$12).

Fees to be remitted to the Department are recommended to be increased:

- Entire battery of five (5) tests: from \$17 to \$28
- Retake of the Social Studies, Science, Reading, or Mathematics tests: from \$4 to \$7

- Retake of the Writing Skills test: from \$5 to \$8
- Duplication of diploma: from \$4 to \$6
- Duplication of transcript: from \$4 to \$6
- Conversion of scores from applicants who have taken the GED in the military: from \$7 to \$10

The last change is to add a charge of \$6 for duplication of a diploma or transcript to allow the Department to regain some of the costs for these services.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-6.021, State of Florida High School Diplomas, FAC.

Facilitator: Lucy Hadi, Chancellor, Workforce Education