

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Establishing a standard adult high school diploma

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### Overview

Per legislative direction and a task force report, establishes the requirements for a standard adult high school diploma.

#### Section

- 1 Standard high school diploma for adults.** Links existing statutory language establishing eligibility for a standard adult high school diploma to the section establishing the requirements for this diploma.  
  
Makes this section effective August 1, 2014.
- 2 Standard adult high school diploma requirements.** (a) Directs the education commissioner to establish criteria and requirements for eligible adult basic education consortia to effectively operate and provide instruction under this section.  
  
(b) Directs an eligible and interested adult basic education consortium to apply to the commissioner for approval to provide an adult high school diploma program for adult basic education students. Requires an approved consortium to submit data annually to demonstrate its compliance with federal and state law, its approved application, and the efficacy of its adult high school diploma program. Directs the commissioner to use the data to evaluate the program at least every five years. Allows the commissioner to limit the number or size of programs based on specified criteria.  
  
(c) Requires a program provider to work with a student to: identify the student's goals, skills, and experiences, required competencies already completed, and goals and options for viable career pathways; assess the student's instructional needs; and develop an individualized

## **Section**

learning plan to guide the student in completing program requirements and realizing career goals. Requires the program provider to provide the student ongoing advice, monitor the student's progress, and provide the student with needed academic support services. Directs the program provider to conduct an exit interview to examine the student's experience with the program and to help the student transition to training, a career, or post secondary education.

(d) Requires competencies and other program requirements to be rigorous and uniform and align with state high school standards applicable to adult learners and their career and college needs. Requires the commissioner to establish competencies, skills, and knowledge requirements in language arts, math, career development and employment-related skills, social studies, and science.

(e) Allows students to demonstrate completion of program requirements by verification of the student's prior experiences, knowledge and skills measures by assessments or credentials, adult basic education instruction and course completion, and applied and experiential learning.

(f) Requires program providers to transmit the records of transfer students. Directs the commissioner to establish a uniform format and transcript for recording student work and preserving and transferring student records. At the student's request, requires program providers to transmit a student's records to other entities.

(g) Allows the commissioner to issue a standard adult high school diploma and transmit the student's transcript and record of work. Allows a school district that is a member of an approved consortium to issue a district diploma.

(h) Directs the commissioner to identify best practices for adult basic education programs and develop recommendations to assist approved consortia in providing an adult high school diploma program. Directs the commissioner to assist program providers.

(i) Directs the commissioner to establish a stakeholder advisory committee to advise on establishing standards, requirements, and other criteria to ensure that individuals with a standard adult high school diploma are as equally well prepared and qualified graduates as individuals with a standard high school diploma. Directs the committee to regularly review program requirements and diploma standards and annually report. Causes the advisory committee not to expire.

Makes this section effective August 1, 2014.