



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Catherine Danyluk, State Attendance Officer

Marilyn Pitzulo, Director of Adult Education, Department of Workforce Development

Date: June 10, 2024

Subject: Indiana High School Equivalency Testing Requirements

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) have developed the following updates regarding students under the age of 18 who require participation in the Indiana High School Equivalency Exam (HSE) to exit high school.

[House Enrolled Act \(HEA\) 1243](#) repeals former HSE eligibility requirements for students under the age of 18. Students who are 16 or 17 may participate in the exam with a written recommendation from either the student's parent/guardian if they are homeschooled, the student's superintendent, or a judge of the juvenile court. While this legislation no longer explicitly excludes students who are less than 16, please note that pursuant to Indiana Code (IC) 20-33-2-9, no one under the age of 16 may participate in the Indiana HSE.

Under IC 22-4.1-18.1, an individual may exit the high school diploma track and participate in the HSE if the Exit Interview Form is signed by at least one of the following:

- The student's parent if the student attends a nonaccredited nonpublic school that has less than one (1) employee.
- The superintendent (as defined in IC 20-18-2-21), the principal, or head of the school the student attends, or the appropriate designee, if the student attends a school that employs more than one (1) employee.
- A judge as defined in IC 31-9-2-68.

Guidance for Schools/Superintendents:

1. Requests may be received from accredited and non-accredited private schools, including students who are homeschooled.
2. An individual who is under 18 and meets the requirements in IC 20-33-2-9 (b) may obtain a recommendation from any superintendent/principal (as defined in IC 20-18-21) and does not need to have legal settlement in the superintendent's school district. **Note that to exit school prior to age 18, the parent and principal's signature is required.*



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3. A superintendent/principal is not obligated to provide a recommendation for a student under 18 to take the HSE if they do not meet exit requirements in IC 20-33-2-9 (c), or if [determined that it is not the best option for the student](#).
4. Please note the Exit Interview form can be signed by a superintendent/principal or designee.

The Exit Interview form can be found on IDOE's [State Attendance Officer webpage](#). Additional information regarding the HSE can be found [here](#).

For additional information, contact [Catherine Danyluk](#), Chief State Attendance Officer, or [Marilyn Pitzulo](#), Director of Adult Education at DWD.