



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

March 7, 2018

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: C. Suzanne Mulcahy *C. Suzanne Mulcahy*
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Hawaii Adult Community School Diplomas and the Competency-Based Community School Diploma Program**

The purpose of this memo is to clearly define the Hawaii Adult Community School Diplomas since there have been changes over time and also to clarify what the Competency-Based Community School Diploma Program (CBCSDP) represents.

A Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma is awarded to a student who completes requirements for one of the following:

- Successful passing of the General Education Development (GED) test and verification of completion of .5 credit in a Hawaii K-12 School;
- Successful passing of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), a nationally recognized test similar to the GED and verification of completion of .5 credit in a Hawaii K-12 School; or
- Successful completion of all program requirements of the CBCSDP.
 - Phase I: passing of all five units of study and a mastery test; and
 - Phase II: earning postsecondary school credit or obtaining work experience or a marketable skill or demonstrating home mastery.

The chart below explains how to interpret the Hawaii Adult Community School diplomas.

Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma	Purpose	Explanation
High School Diploma from the Community School for Adults	High School Diploma	Prior to August 2013, the Community Schools for Adults (CSA) were authorized to award high school diplomas. The CSA no longer award high school diplomas as a result of litigation regarding special education services.

Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma	High School Diploma Equivalent	Since August 2013 the CSA awards the Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma in place of the high school diploma. The Hawaii Adult Community School Diploma is a high school diploma equivalent. Only high schools issue high school diplomas.
Community School for Adults, Competency-Based Community School Diploma Program	High School Diploma Equivalent. Since 2014 it does not meet the requirements of federal laws Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 34 Section 600.2 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).	<p>In 2014 the United States Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, included the HiSET and Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) tests in addition to the GED as State-authorized examinations equivalent to a high school diploma. CBCSDP students take a comprehensive mastery test upon successful completion of five units, however this is not a State-authorized examination equivalent to a high school diploma.</p> <p>The WIOA defines a State-recognized high school equivalent as documenting satisfactory completion of secondary studies. The CBCSDP does not document satisfactory completion of secondary studies.</p>

Recognizing that the CBCSDP does not meet the requirements in federal laws in CFR Title 34 and the WIOA, the CSA will reach out to existing stakeholders and create work groups to develop recommendations for program services that are relevant and meet the needs of its stakeholders.

The CSA are committed to the successful implementation of the Hawaii State WIOA plan and appreciates the opportunity to better serve its students and workforce partners.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Miyamoto, Administrator, Career Readiness Section, at 305-9701 or via Lotus Notes.

CSM:la

- c: Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendents
- Complex Area Superintendents
- Community Schools for Adults Principals