



ADULT CAREER & CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES (ACCES)  
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND POLICY / HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY  
89 Washington Avenue, EBA 460 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12234  
(518) 474-5906; FAX: (518) 474-3041  
PROFESSIONAL EMAILS: [HSETC@NYSED.GOV](mailto:HSETC@NYSED.GOV) WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.ACCES.NYSED.GOV/HSE/HIGH-SCHOOL-EQUIVALENCY-HSE](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/high-school-equivalency-hse)

April 13, 2021

### **COVID-19 High School Equivalency (HSE) Waiver Diploma Update**

The temporary regulation permitting COVID-19 waivers is set to expire on June 30, 2021, as per the guidance posted: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/common/acces/files/hse/hse-guidance.pdf>. The NYSED High School Equivalency Office anticipates an increase in preparation program waiver candidate submissions over the next few months. The final date to submit waiver data for eligible candidates is July 31, 2021.

To allow the HSE staff the ability to process data in the most efficient and timely manner possible, please be considerate of the following, prior to waiver candidate submission:

- All eligible waiver candidates from one class/cohort should be submitted together, in one emailed waiver submission. Submitting fewer candidates more frequently greatly delays processing and causes challenges in communications with the preparation programs when follow up is needed.
- Per the regulations, to qualify for a TASC subtest waiver, 3 or more passing subtests and/or 3 or more Regents credits (passing scores on exams) are required and must be in the candidate's official record for waiver data to be processed. When the HSE office receives waiver submissions for candidates who do not have 3 or more passing subtests in their official HSE record - and have not submitted a *R Application* and therefore have no Regents credit in their record – they are not eligible for waiver credit.
- If the *R Application* is anticipated, please correctly note this in the appropriate column within the waiver template.
- If an *R Application* is needed to qualify a student for a waiver, this application should be submitted as quickly as possible. The review of an *R Application* takes 8-10 weeks. This additional processing time should be accounted for prior to submitting waiver candidates for review.
- Where possible, given the cut-off date, please make sure that your candidates are eligible through the confirmed processing of an *R Application*. This is demonstrated by an official transcript being mailed to the candidate's address, as provided on the *R Application*.
- If an *R application* is needed to qualify a candidate for a waiver, and is not received by July 31, 2021, this candidate will be determined to be ineligible, as they will not have the 3 or more subtests and/or 3 or more Regents credits needed to meet the qualifications.
- To ensure the fastest and most efficient processing of waiver candidates, please review your submission to confirm that all personal information and data being attested to is complete and accurate.

Thank you.