



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 2, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Transmittal of “Statement of Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of Implementation” for Changes to Requirements for Award of the General Achievement Adult High School Diploma

As part of its responsibility for promulgating new regulations or revisions to existing regulations, pursuant to § [22.1-17](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Education is required to develop a statement of the administrative impact and projected cost to school divisions related to implementing and complying with such regulations. In addition, the Board and the Department of Education are required to send a copy of the statement to each division superintendent.

The 2012 General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, [HB 1061](#) and [SB 489](#), which amended § [22.1-253.13:4](#) of the *Code of Virginia* to strengthen postsecondary education and workplace readiness opportunities for all students, and to consolidate the Board approved diplomas. Further, the legislation required the Board to promulgate emergency regulations to effect these changes. The purpose of this regulatory proposal is to revise the regulations relating to achievement of a general achievement adult high school diploma to comport with the requirements of these bills. The proposed emergency regulations were approved by the Board on June 28, 2012, and became effective on July 17, 2013, for school year 2013-2014.

As proposed, the following changes will be made to requirements for achievement of a general achievement adult high school diploma so that it will comport with [HB 1061](#) and [SB 489](#):

- The proposed regulation will require that, beginning July 1, 2013, persons who are not subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements of § 22.1-254 who seek award of a general achievement adult high school diploma must have (i) achieved a passing score on the General Educational Development (GED) examination; (ii) successfully completed an education and training program designated by the Board of Education; (iii) earned a Board of Education-approved career and technical education credential such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment; (iv) satisfied other requirements as may be established by the Board for the award of such diplomas.

The emergency regulations became effective on July 17, 2013. A Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to promulgate the permanent replacement regulations was filed at the same time as the emergency regulations. The emergency regulations can be found in the attached document.

Administrative Impact and Projected Costs of Implementation

It is anticipated that there will be little or no administrative costs related to consolidation of the diplomas. However, to the extent that school divisions must provide additional services to meet the other new

requirements, there could be local fiscal impact. Because any impact will depend on the current services offered in each division, the Department is not able to determine any fiscal impact at this time.

Please contact the Office of Adult Education and Literacy at (804) 786-3347 or by e-mail at OAEL@doe.virginia.gov if you have any questions.

PIW/SMC/gjm

Attachment:

- a. [Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs](#) (Word)