

Section: **INSTRUCTION**

Policy Title: **Certificate of Educational Competency**

Students who are at least 16 years of age and under 19 years of age and who have a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school program, or who have been home schooled may make application to the Kelso School District to be released to pursue the General Education Development (GED) and certificate of educational competence.

“Substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school program” means one or more of the following:

1. Personal problems that seriously impair the student’s ability to make reasonable progress toward high school graduation.
2. A financial crisis that directly affects the student and necessitates the student’s employment during school hours.
3. A lack of curriculum and instruction that constitutes appropriate learning experiences for the student.
4. The inability or failure of the school of attendance to adjust its program for the individual or otherwise make arrangements for enrollment in an educational program in a manner which enables the student to advance toward graduation with reasonable progress and success.
5. A determination by the superintendent/ designee that it is in the “best interest” of the student to drop the regular high school program for one of the following purposes:
 - a. Enter a postsecondary institution.
 - b. Enter the military.
 - c. Engage in employment
6. Provided, that no person under 18 years of age (i.e., minor), shall be adjudged to have a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school education program unless the minor’s parents, guardian, or legal custodian, if available, agrees that dropping school is in the best interest of the minor.

The superintendent/ designee of the Kelso School District shall evaluate the facts presented by the applicant and determine whether the applicant has a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular education program. This determination shall be made in writing.

If the superintendent/ designee agrees that a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular education program exists, the decision shall be final. If the decision is to deny the existence of a substantial and warranted reason for leaving the regular high school education program, the student shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors, who shall issue a decision within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. This decision is final with the exception of an appeal to a court of law.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who provided home-based instruction to a person who is at least 16 years of age and under 19 years of age is responsible for determining and certifying in writing that the person has completed a program of home-based instruction.

Policy2411 Cont.

The written certification shall be signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the signature(s) shall be notarized by a notary public.

Cross References:	Policy 3114	Home based instruction
Legal References:	RCW 28A.205.030	Reentry of prior dropouts into common schools, rules-Eligibility for GED test
	RCW 28A.305.190	Eligibility to take General Educational Development (GED) test
	Chapter 180-96 WAC	General Educational Development (GED) test
	Chapter 131-48 WAC	Certificate of Educational Competence

Adopted: August 25, 1993
Revised: September 25, 2006