The purpose of a High School Equivalency Program (HSEP) approved by the Commissioner is to prepare eligible students to take the high school equivalency examination. *19 TAC 89.1401*

AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM

The District may apply for authorization to operate an HSEP. The Board must hold a public hearing concerning the proposed application before applying to operate an HSEP. *Education Code 29.087(b), (k)(1); 19 TAC 89.1405(a), .1407*

A cooperative of districts may apply for permission to operate a cooperative HSEP if it operates pursuant to a written agreement. The fiscal agent of a cooperative HSEP is responsible for complying with the requirements of 19 Administrative Code Chapter 89, Subchapter DD. *19 TAC 89.1405(b)*

A district authorized by the Commissioner on or before August 31, 2003, to operate an HSEP may continue to operate the program. *Education Code 29.087(b-1); 19 TAC 89.1417(b), (e)*

OPERATION OF PROGRAM

A student enrolled in an HSEP must be offered, at a minimum, a seven-hour school day and a 180-day instructional year calendar. However, a student may attend the HSEP a maximum of 600 minutes, or ten hours of instruction per day. A student may be enrolled in only an HSEP or may be enrolled in an HSEP in combination with regular attendance and/or special program attendance during the school day. *Education Code 29.087(c); 19 TAC 89.1411(a), (d), .1417(d)*

Enrollment in an HSEP may not exceed by more than five percent the total number of students enrolled in a similar program operated by the District during the 2000–01 school year. *19 TAC 89.1417(c)*

ANNUAL REVIEW

The Board must hold a public hearing annually to review the performance of the HSEP.

HSEPs shall be required to submit annually one progress report as instructed by the General Educational Development Testing Service (GEDTS) to TEA.

Education Code 29.087(k)(2); 19 TAC 89.1407, .1417(a)

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

A student is eligible to participate in the HSEP if:

COURT-ORDERED

1. The student has been ordered by a court under Code of Criminal Procedure 45.054, or by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, to:

    a. Participate in a preparatory class for the high school equivalency examination; or

b. Take the high school equivalency examination administered under Education Code 7.111; or

STUDENT AT RISK

2. The following conditions are satisfied:

a. The student is at least 16 years of age at the beginning of the school year or semester;

b. The student is a student at risk of dropping out of school [see EHBC];

c. The student and the student's parent or guardian agree in writing to the student's participation; and

d. At least two school years have elapsed since the student first enrolled in ninth grade and the student has accumulated less than one-third of the credits required to graduate under the minimum graduation requirements of the District.

Education Code 29.087(d); 19 TAC 89.1403

STATE ASSESSMENT

A student enrolling in an HSEP must take:

1. Prior to entering the program, the following assessments, as applicable:

a. If the student first enters grade 9 prior to the 2011–12 school year, the student must take the grade 9 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessment in reading and mathematics; or

b. If the student first enters grade 9 during or after the 2011–12 school year, the student must take the end-of-course (EOC) assessments for Algebra I and English I. Released grade 9 TAKS assessments may be used until the applicable EOC has been released. The District shall be responsible for scoring the released assessment.

If the student took a higher grade level assessment before enrollment, the student has met this requirement;

2. Each TAKS or EOC assessment instrument required to be administered during the student's enrollment in the HSEP; and

3. The assessments listed above before taking the high school equivalency examination.

A student entering an HSEP by order of the court or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department is exempt from these assessment requirements.

Education Code 29.087(f); 19 TAC 89.1409(a)–(b) [See EKB]

GED TESTING

The District must inform each student who has completed the program of the time and place at which the student may take the high school equivalency examination. A district wanting to serve as a General Education Development (GED) testing center must obtain authorization from TEA, pursuant to 19 Administrative Code 89.42(a).

The District must present to the GED testing center, on a form provided by the TEA, proof that a student has been administered the assessment instruments.

19 TAC 89.1409(c), (d)

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

A student enrolled in an HSEP may not participate in a competition or activity sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League. *Education Code 29.087(g); 19 TAC 89.1415*