

# Overview of Option Pathway

The Option Pathway program offers three Options for students to graduate (via alternate means), depending on their educational needs and goals.

## Option 1 (Core)

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Option 1 is the core program. Counties/schools may not offer Options 2 and/or 3 unless they have an Option 1 program in place. In the Option 1 program, students must not only complete the entire high school equivalency assessment (HSEA), but they must also complete their CTE concentration (which is aligned with their Personal Education Plan).

- Core of the program (counties may not offer Option 2 and/or Option 3 unless they have Option 1 program in place)
- Credit deficiencies (at least one year behind their 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort) and/or at risk of dropping out due to inappropriate age
- Must be at least 16 years old and at high risk of dropping out due to personal issues
- Must be referred to the program by a school administrator
- Must take TABE test and receive 8th grade level in Reading and 7th grade level on Math (must receive parental permission prior to testing)
- If history of behavioral issues, school must have documentation in student file that behavior has significantly improved
- Must be accepted into the program by the Option Team, who makes the final determination as to whether the student is an appropriate candidate for the program
- Option Pathway is voluntary
- Meeting must be conducted (by an Option Team member) with student and parent/guardian to review and obtain signatures on the Student/Parent/Guardian contract prior to student's entry into the program
- Must follow county attendance guidelines
- Must successfully complete CTE requirements (per Policy 2510)
- Must pass WVDE approved practice test (readiness assessment)
- Need parental permission to take HSEA (TASC test)
- Must successfully complete the TASC test
- Receives high school diploma if meets all program requirements (also receives the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma, which is issued automatically once the TASC test is completed)
- Student is not included in class ranking but may attend graduation
- Counts toward county's graduation rates

## Option 2 (Credit Recovery)

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Credit Recovery (Option Pathway 2) allows seniors, needing only to pass one subject or several subjects in the same content area in order to graduate, to take that one content area of a WVDE approved high school equivalency assessment (hereafter HSEA).

Option Pathway (Option 1) is the core component of the Option Pathway. Option 2 is a supplemental program that may be implemented once a county is approved to do the Option Pathway program. The criteria for the Credit Recovery (Option 2) are the following:

- Used as credit recovery **for one content area only**.
- Designed for high school seniors only, who have failed one course or several courses in the same content area and who are in jeopardy of not meeting the high school graduation requirements with their cohort.
- Is provided preparation materials in the deficient required content area.
- Must pass an approved HSEA practice test by achieving the minimum score as determined by the WVDE.
- Must receive permission from parent or guardian to test (via the *WV TASC Test Form*, which is located in the *WVABE Instructor Handbook, Section 12*).
- Students should obtain and bring a West Virginia ID prior to admittance into the program or use the school ID. A current photo ID must be used.
- Passes the HSEA in the one deficient content area by achieving the minimum passing score as determined by the WVDE. (Note: If the deficient content area is English, the student must pass both the Writing and Reading sections of the HSEA.)
- Continues attending and maintaining passing grades in all other classes as required by Policy 2510.
- Receives a high school diploma upon completion of all Option 2 requirements.

When implementing Credit Recovery (Option 2), the school must use the same guidelines for issuing grades as with other credit recovery programs. For example, if it is customary to give only the letter grade of a “D” for credit recovery, then the student completing Option 2 would receive a “D”. If an average grade is given for credit recovery classes, refer to the conversion chart below to convert the score on the HSEA to a letter grade:

GED® Test Score	Letter Grade		TASC Test Score	Letter Grade
600-800	A		650-800	A
500-590	B		550-649	B
410-490	C		500-549	C

## Option 3 (High School Equivalency Diploma)

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High School Equivalency Diploma (Option 3) allows students dropping out of school to take the State approved high school equivalency assessment (HSEA) **prior to dropping out** of school. Students enrolling in Option 3 should understand that they will not receive a high school diploma. However, if they successfully complete the HSEA, they will receive the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma.

In order for a student to be considered an Option 3 student, he/she must take the entire HSEA prior to dropping out of school. For students who choose not to take the entire HSEA prior to leaving school, they are not considered an Option 3 student; they are considered a dropout.

Option Pathway (Option 1) is the core component of the Option Pathway. Option 3 is a supplemental program that may be implemented once a county has been approved to provide the Option Program. The criteria for the High School Equivalency Diploma (Option 3) are as follows:

- Designed for the student who is dropping out of school.
- Student should obtain and bring a West Virginia ID (or use the school ID) prior to admittance into the program.
- Student is encouraged to take and pass the high school equivalency practice test (i.e., TRA or OPT) for the HSEA. (Arrangements should be made with the Option teacher to administer the practice test.)
- If student passes the practice test, the student must take the entire HSEA **prior to leaving** the public school system.
  - If the student **completes the HSEA** (passes the entire test) prior to dropping out of school, the student may be entered as a completer in WVEIS and marked as having “Received State of WV HSE Diploma.”
  - If the student **does not complete the HSEA** (does not pass all five subject areas on the test) prior to dropping out of school, the student should be entered in WVEIS as a dropout (using the dropout code that corresponds with the reason he/she is dropping out). However, if this student passes the HSEA prior to the second month report (in October), he/she will be removed from the dropout list and marked as passing the HSEA. This does not help the graduation rate, but does help the number dropping out of school.
- Does not receive a high school diploma
- Does receive the State of West Virginia High School Equivalency Diploma (if he/she successfully completes the HSEA)
- Benefits the student, but is not counted in the graduation rate.