

## Guidance on Students who are Homeschooled

### When does home schooling end?

A student must continue to be homeschooled until they reach the compulsory attendance age or upon completion of the program of secondary education.

### Do home school students receive a recognized diploma?

The WV Legislature enacted a new section of state code that became effective June 12, 2015. That code (§18-8-12) states, “ A person who administers a program of secondary education at a public, private or home school that meets the requirements of this chapter may issue a diploma or other appropriate credential to a person who has completed the program of secondary education. **Such diploma or credential is legally sufficient to demonstrate that the person meets the definition of having a high school diploma or its equivalent.** No state agency or institution of higher learning in this state may reject or otherwise treat a person differently solely on the grounds of the source of such a diploma or credential. Nothing in this section prevents any agency or institution of higher learning from inquiring into the substance or content of the program to assess the content thereof for the purposes of determining whether a person meets other specific requirements.”

Please note that the recognition of the diploma does not extend to other states or employers outside of state agencies. Therefore, many homeschoolers may still elect to take the TASC upon attainment of compulsory school attendance age or completion of the program of secondary education. According to Department of Military Affairs, the homeschool diploma should suffice for entrance into the armed forces.

### When can a homeschool student take the high school equivalency test?

A homeschool student may take the high school equivalency test if they have reached the compulsory school age of 17. Please note that compulsory school attendance age is 18 for students in Cabell, Marshall, Monroe and Wyoming. Each of those counties have legislatively-approved waivers to W.Va. Code §18-8-1a. See *sample letter of verification of compliance with homeschool law*.

If a student is taking a course at a public high school or technical center (see §18-8-1(c)(3)), they may not participate in ABE services until they either complete the course or provide documentation they have withdrawn from the course. Homeschool students who take a public school course have a part-time enrollment code assigned by WVEIS so the school/county should be able to verify the homeschool student is taking, has completed or has withdrawn from the course.

### Why is the letter from the County Superintendent Necessary?

*18-8-1 (c ) (2) (A) Upon commencing home instruction under this section the parent of a child receiving home instruction shall present to the county superintendent or county board a notice of intent to provide home instruction that includes the name, address, and age of any child of compulsory school age to be instructed and assurance that the*

child shall receive instruction in reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies and that the child shall be assessed annually in accordance with this subdivision. **The person providing home instruction shall notify the county superintendent upon termination of home instruction for a child who is of compulsory attendance age.** Upon establishing residence in a new county, the person providing home instruction shall notify the previous county superintendent and submit a new notice of intent to the superintendent of the new county of residence: Provided, That if a child is enrolled in a public school, notice of intent to provide home instruction shall be given on or before the date home instruction is to begin.

**When must a homeschool student present the results of TASC to WVHEPC for Promise Scholarship?**

A homeschool student has until the first of August to present the required TASC scores to WVHEPC in order to still meet eligibility requirements for Fall semester. The initial eligibility for Promise is based on ACT or SAT scores that must be submitted no later than June.

**Does a WV homeschool student need the TASC for military enlistment?**

No – per Department of Defense Memorandum clarifying education credentials

## COUNTY LETTERHEAD

DATE

Name

\_\_\_\_\_ County Adult Education Instructor

Address

Dear Name,

Please accept this letter as verification that **home school student name**, age **17/18/19**, has completed the requirements for home school in the state of West Virginia. The parent/provider has presented the county superintendent with appropriate notification that homeschooling has been completed\*\* and the annual assessment as required by W. Va. Code §18-8-1 (c) (2) (D) has been provided. As a homeschool student, **he/she** has not been on the roster for a public school; **he/she** was withdrawn from public school to homeschool on **date**.

Compulsory attendance requirements (W. Va. Code §18-8-1a (3)) are not applicable at this time, since **home school student name** is 17 or older and/or has completed the homeschool program of secondary education and is therefore, no longer obligated to attend public school or comply with homeschool requirements.

Sincerely,

Name

Superintendent

\*\* Completed means one of the following:

- Homeschool student has reached compulsory school age and parent has notified county homeschooling has been terminated
- Homeschool student has been issued a homeschool diploma. The homeschool diploma could be issued before age 17 but WVBE policy does not allow students to test before age 17 (unless certain exceptions exist)