

Raising the Compulsory Age for School Attendance

RSA **Section 193:1** (formerly referred to as Senate Bill 18)
(Source: Senate Bill 18: Chapter 242 of the Laws of 2007)

The implementation date for the Chapter 193.1 (formerly Senate Bill 18) (www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/193/193-1.htm) law was July 1, 2009 at which time all students under the age of 18 who are not:

- *high school graduates
- *GED completers
- *engaged in home schooling,
- *excused by their principal or superintendent due to physical or mental reasons,
- *or who are attending private school or college

should be enrolled in public school. **This includes students who may have previously dropped out and are still under the age of 18.** Truancy policies and practices would apply to these students.

We all are thinking of how to best serve New Hampshire's at-risk students. To that end, the Department of Education is providing a list of resources to aid and support your work with at-risk 16 and 17 year old students.

Tuition and Transportation

The NH Department of Education provides funding for tuition and transportation for students who are deemed at risk of dropping out to attend alternative programs, adult high school, etc. Details are set forth in the NHDOE's Technical Advisory, Tuition and Transportation Reimbursement for Alternative Education Students, www.ed.state.nh.us/education/standards/trans&tuition.pdf.

GED Option Program

Schools may apply to become approved to offer this program to students. This program targets students who have the capabilities to complete high school, but for a variety of reasons lack the credits needed to graduate with their class and are at risk of leaving school without a high school diploma. This program will allow high schools to provide a minimum of 15 hours of instruction per week for students who want to take the GED test. Additional learning opportunities at the local level will allow students enrolled in this program to maintain full-time student status. In order to enroll a student would need to be at least one grade level in credits behind their original class and have at least an 8th grade reading level.

GED Test

The process for seeking permission to take GED Tests before the age of 18 has changed. Sixteen and 17 year old high school students electing to take the GED Test must use new forms. One of the main changes in GED policy that is implemented with these forms is the approval by the local school

Issued by:

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.

Date Issued:

8/28/09

Supersedes
issue dated:
NEW

Page 1 of 4

Raising the Compulsory Age for School Attendance

RSA **Section 193:1** (formerly referred to as Senate Bill 18)
(Source: Senate Bill 18: Chapter 242 of the Laws of 2007)

district for 16 and 17 year olds to take the test. GED permission from the New Hampshire GED administrator will no longer be valid. Students 16 and 17 years old will be able to register to take GED tests only if they have GED Referral Form 1 from a GED Option program or GED Referral Form 2 from their local school district, or GED Referral Form 3 for home schooled students. These forms require students to demonstrate that they have passed Official GED Practice Tests. Students who want to pursue a GED are first required to take a practice test and obtain an average score of 450 on the 5 subtests, and scoring no less than 410 on any individual test. **The Dept. of Education will be sending each high school a set of official GED practice tests, instructions, time limits, and sample answer sheets later this summer.**

The State GED office will discontinue processing approvals for underage testing after June 30, 2009. Approvals for underage testing that have been issued by the state office will no longer be valid after July 1, 2009. These new forms can be found on the Department's Web site at www.ed.state.nh.us/education/ged. Tips from i4see regarding tracking students in GED program may be found at: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/datacollection/i4see.htm

Adult High School

Adult High School classes may be provided during daytime school hours, after school, or in the evening. They may be made available to students of a single contracting high school or may be made available to students from collaborating districts. Credits earned in an Adult High School may be transferred back to the day high school or applied toward an adult high school diploma. Tips from i4see regarding tracking students in Adult High School can be found at: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/datacollection/i4see.htm

Extended Learning Opportunities

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) allow for the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside of the traditional classroom including, but not limited to: *Independent study, Private instruction, Performing groups, Internships, Community service, Apprenticeships, and Online courses.* ELOs validate the learning that takes place outside of school that is youth centered and focuses both on the acquisition of skills and knowledge and on youth development. More information about ELOs may be found at : www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/SupportingStudentSuccessThroughExtendedLearningOpportunities.htm or contact Mariane Gfroerer at 271-6691, mgfroerer@ed.state.nh.us.

Issued by:

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.

Date Issued:

8/28/09

Supersedes
issue dated:
NEW

Page 2 of 4

Raising the Compulsory Age for School Attendance

RSA **Section 193:1** (formerly referred to as Senate Bill 18)
(Source: Senate Bill 18: Chapter 242 of the Laws of 2007)

Technical Advisories

The NH Department of Education has issued the following Technical Advisories to assist districts and schools in clarifying best practices and to provide support at the local level for alternative programs or at-risk students.

- Student Accounting: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/standards/advisory17.pdf
- Alternative Pathways to Graduation: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/standards/advisory16.pdf
- Off-Site Programs: www.ed.state.nh.us/education/standards/advisory7.pdf

On-line Learning

The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) offers full and part-time virtual high school classes using certified educators. Students can enroll as full time students with the Charter School, or may take an individual course which they can then apply for credit at their home high school. The leadership has brought forward a proposal through Alternative Education, by which VLACS could provide competency recovery to obtain partial credit for high school classes or for use with students utilizing Extended Learning Opportunities.

Alternative Learning Plans

State Law allows for the development and use of Alternative Learning Plans as follows:

g) The pupil obtains a waiver from the superintendent, which shall only be granted upon proof that the pupil is 16 years of age or older and has an alternative learning plan for obtaining either a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(1) Alternative learning plans shall include age-appropriate academic rigor and the flexibility to incorporate the pupil's interests and manner of learning. These plans may include, but are not limited to, such components or combination of components of extended learning opportunities as independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service, apprenticeships, and on-line courses.

(2) Alternative learning plans shall be developed, and amended if necessary, in consultation with the pupil, a school guidance counselor, the school principal and at least one parent or guardian of the pupil, and submitted to the school district superintendent for approval.

(3) If the superintendent does not approve the alternative learning plan, the parent or guardian of the pupil may appeal such decision to the local school board. A parent or guardian may appeal the decision of the local school board to the state board of education consistent with the provisions of RSA 21-N:11, III.

Issued by:

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.

Date Issued:

8/28/09

Supersedes
issue dated:
NEW

Page 3 of 4

Raising the Compulsory Age for School Attendance

RSA **Section 193:1** (formerly referred to as Senate Bill 18)
(Source: Senate Bill 18: Chapter 242 of the Laws of 2007)

A sample Alternative Learning Plan can be found at:

www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/sb18learning-plan.pdf

National Dropout Prevention Materials

Strategies for developing a comprehensive Dropout Plan:

- **Grad Nation** <http://www.americaspromise.org/GradNation>
- **IES Practice guide**- Jay Smink - IES Practice Guide: Dropout Prevention
http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/dp_pg_090308.pdf
-  [Guiding Principals Chart](#)
-  [Recommendations Chart](#)

National High School Center- Developing Early Warning Systems to Identify Potential High School Dropouts

The information that follows and an accompanying tool developed by the National High School Center can help schools and districts to systematically collect early warning indicator data so they can identify students at highest risk of dropping out. An early warning system can be implemented at the school as well as at district levels.

- www.betterhighschools.org/docs/IssueBrief_EarlyWarningSystemsGuide_081408.pdf

Approaches to Dropout Prevention Heeding Early Warning Signs with Appropriate Intervention

The first step toward an effective dropout prevention strategy involves tracking and analyzing basic data on which students are showing early warning signs of dropping out.

www.betterhighschools.org/docs/NHSC_ApproachesToDropoutPrevention.pdf

For Further information on all items found in this advisory contact:

Susan Randall
271-3809

srandall@ed.state.nh.us

Paul Leather
271-3801

pleather@ed.state.nh.us

Issued by:

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.

Date Issued:

8/28/09

Supersedes
issue dated:
NEW

Page 4 of 4