

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Some students between the ages of 16-18 are not ready to complete high school in a traditional manner. Chesterfield County Public Schools offer preparation programs to assist students in developing the skills necessary to successfully pass the General Educational Development (GED) tests. GED tests measure the academic skills and knowledge students are expected to acquire during four years of high school. The GED test battery consists of 4 tests: social studies, science, language arts, and mathematics.

### Interesting facts:

- Ninety percent of colleges and universities recognize the GED. Acceptance is based on the GED scores and other components of admission criteria.
- More than 95 percent of employers nationwide employ GED graduates on the same basis as high school graduates in terms of hiring, salary and opportunity for advancement.
- Sixty-two percent of GED test-takers plan to enter college, a university, trade or technical school or business school during the next year.

Consider all the facts as you decide if this pathway is the right choice for your goals. These programs do not award credits, so if your child decides that he/she wants to return to traditional school, generally they will return to the grade they were in before beginning Secondary Education GED preparation program.

*Traditional educational programs do not fit all learners.*



## PROGRAM OPTIONS

Following is a brief description of the various Secondary Education GED preparation programs Chesterfield County offers. *Remember, students do not get to choose their program; it is based on assessment scores and other criteria.*

**Pre-GED:** (must be at least 16 years old and two grade levels behind in school; reading below 7.5 grade)

- Purpose: to accelerate reading, writing and math skills to successfully move into a GED preparation program or to return to a regular middle or high school
- Meets Monday - Friday; 2 ½ hours daily
- Location: Carver College and Career Academy
- Transportation: Provided

**ISAEP** (Individual Student Alternative Education Plan): (must be at least 16 years old and behind grade level; reading level greater than 7.5)

- Purpose: to prepare students to take the official GED tests while providing them with career and vocational counseling
- Students completing program components may take the official GED tests prior to turning 18.
- Meets: Monday-Friday; 2 ½ hours daily
- Location: Carver College and Career Academy
- Transportation: Provided
- OR
- Meets: Even or odd calendar days; 5.5 hours daily
- Location: Chesterfield Technical Center
- Transportation: Not Provided



## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- ❑ Each student must complete a Secondary Education GED Preparation referral form in his or her home school's Guidance office.
- ❑ Students must be enrolled and attending school while referral is in process.
- ❑ Prior to submitting a referral, a meeting is held at the home school to include the student, parent/guardian, counselor, administrator or designee, and the student's case manager if the student receives special education services. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the student's educational progress and the impact of a GED tract. The referral form can be completed at this meeting.
- ❑ The Secondary Education GED office will contact the parent/guardian to schedule assessment testing. Assessment testing consists of a battery of tests focusing on reading, writing and mathematics.
- ❑ Assessments are conducted during the day at the Chesterfield Technical Center. Testing is conducted on 3 days (2 ½ hours per day). Transportation is not provided.
- ❑ Once test results have been analyzed with other pertinent information, a placement decision will be made.
- ❑ If a student receives special education services, an IEP meeting **MUST** be held prior to program placement. The Secondary GED Liaison and the Special Education Case Manager at Carver College and Career Academy must be a member of this IEP team.
- ❑ Students are placed in programs as space becomes available. Wait time varies with each program. Students are placed in the order that assessments are completed.
- ❑ Once space is available, an orientation meeting will be held with the parent, student and a representative of the Secondary Education GED office.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### ATTENDANCE

While enrolled in the Secondary GED Preparation Program, regular attendance is necessary, expected and strictly monitored. The expectation is that students are in school at least 95% of the time or they are considered *excessively absent*. Students who are considered *excessively absent*, may be dismissed from the program and referred to the attendance social worker.

### COURSEWORK

In the pre-GED program, the majority of class time will focus on preparing the students in Reading, Writing, and Math skills. In the ISAEP program, the emphasis will be on taking and passing the official GED test, concentrating on all four subject areas (Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics). The students also need to complete an online course in Economics and Personal Finance.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Workplace skills are emphasized in all our programs to help prepare students for future careers. Some programs require that the student work a set amount of hours either through a paying job or through approved community service activities. Students complete the Virginia's Workplace Readiness Skills' curriculum, preparing them for future job success. All students participate in assessments that help them become aware of their strengths and interests and how those match with particular career choices. Our goal is to prepare students for the career path they choose.



*Climb your ladder to success!*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** How long do these programs take?

**A.** The amount of time varies for each student. It is based on the student's academic performance, regular attendance and completion of academic and workplace requirements.
- Q.** What does it mean to "complete" an Alternative Education program?

**A.** Completion is based upon the individual goals of every student. Some students are able to transition back to traditional school programs, while others move from the Pre-GED to the ISAEP program. For the ISAEP students, completion means completing all program components, including taking and passing the official GED test.
- Q.** Are special education students allowed to participate in a Secondary Education GED preparation program?

**A.** Yes, if appropriate to their skills, disability and accommodation needs.
- Q.** What if I decide to return to a regular middle or high school after I have been enrolled in an alternative education program?



**A.** Students may return to a regular middle or high school. They generally do so at the grade level they were in when they entered our program.

# SECONDARY EDUCATION GED® PREPARATION PROGRAMS

**Could one of our GED preparation programs fit your needs as it prepares you for your future?**

**"Opportunity is Knocking"**



**Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Office of Secondary Education  
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