

2023 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 11

GRADUATION RATE AND GED COMPLETION NUMBERS

WHEREAS, School districts and charters are required to report graduation rates for each cohort of students as per **Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.03.112(02.b.v, 02.b.vi, 02.c.iv, 02.c.v)**; and

WHEREAS, once a student enrolls in high school, as a 9th grader, school districts and charters are held responsible for each student's completion of graduation requirements as a cohort of students; and

WHEREAS, if a student does not meet graduation requirements, but does complete a General Education Degree (GED) program, school districts and charters currently cannot count them as completed; and

WHEREAS, a school district or charter invests up to 13 years into educating a student; and

WHEREAS, school districts and charters strive to do what is best by preparing their students for their adult life; and

WHEREAS, sometimes what is best for a student is not the traditional receipt of a diploma; and

WHEREAS, the receipt of a GED does not lessen the influence a school or district has on a student and their future success; and

WHEREAS, the receipt of a GED does not lessen the future opportunities of that student.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, any student under the age of 21 who receives their general education degree (GED) with the assistance of the school district or charter school shall be counted as a graduate of that school district or charter school. Additionally, students should not have to withdraw from a school district or charter school to take the General Education Degree exams.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In the past, if a student did not complete the common course of study, and instead chose to complete the GED program, it was considered to be less than a common high school diploma. However, that is not the case anymore. Often, there are students who complete a General Education Degree for a variety of reasons. Therefore, Idaho should remove the stigma of a General Education Degree by changing the current reporting of graduation rate to allow GED to count as a successful course of study for those students under the age of 21.

Supporting Data and Information:

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/08/080203.pdf>

Submitted by Kuna School District No.003

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: Do Pass

Jason Sevy, Region 3 Vice Chair, will present the ISBA recommendation during the annual business session.