



## NJDOE News

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### **Advisory** **Beware of Misleading Diploma Claims**

Persons seeking to meet New Jersey high school diploma requirements should beware of companies that claim to offer the tests of General Educational Development Testing Service (GED) over the internet or through correspondence courses. There are no on-line correspondence testing programs recognized by GEDTS of the American Council on Education, or by the New Jersey Department of Education.

"For many reasons, individuals enroll in these programs with the hopes of improving their lives and employment only to realize that they have wasted hard-earned money for a non-acceptable high school certificate," said Acting Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. "Clients who conduct an internet search to find a way to obtain a high school degree are in some cases directed by ads which state: 'Obtain your New Jersey high school diploma on-line.'"

"There are no such programs in New Jersey," Acting Commissioner Davy said. "There are, however, GED preparation programs on-line that can serve as tools to use in preparing for the GED tests."

The one and only acceptable substitute for an approved New Jersey high school diploma is the GED. The test, whose acronym stands for General Educational Development, is a nationally developed exam administered to approximately 15,000 New Jerseyans annually at 31 current state-approved testing sites.

"GED exams are not offered on-line and there are no plans to introduce on-line testing in the future due to obvious test security issues," said Robert Berezny, New Jersey State Administrator. The American Council on Education, creators of the national GED exams, has stated quite clearly that there are no approved on-line GED testing programs in use anywhere."

Berezny recommended that persons who have left traditional high schools before earning their high school diplomas contact a GED testing center and register to take the GED test and obtain their state-endorsed high school diploma. He noted that GED exams can be taken multiple times if necessary and that the State Board of Education recently aligned the passing score requirements for New Jersey with those established on a national level by the General Educational Development Testing Service in Washington, D.C.

For information about New Jersey's GED program and to contact a GED testing center, click on the link below:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/adulted/>