



## **Underage GED Waiver Policy**

Pursuant to section 1003.435, Florida Statutes, the minimum age to take GED tests to meet the requirements for a high school equivalency diploma is 18 years. A candidate may take the examination after reaching the age 16 if the requirements set by the School District of Lee County are met.

Students, ages 16 to 17, who want to take the GED test must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must not have a high school diploma; and
2. The student is legally withdrawn from secondary school.

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## **Underage GED Waiver Process**

1. Parents and students must complete the Underage GED Waiver Form provided by School District of Lee County Adult & Career Education staff. Please contact our office, (239) 939-6310, for available times, dates, and locations to complete the waiver form.
2. Parents and students must provide proof of withdrawal from secondary school at the time the waiver form is completed. Students who attended school outside of Lee County must also provide proof of residency within Lee County.
3. Completed waiver forms will be reviewed and submitted for approval.
4. Approved waiver forms will be signed by the Director of Career & Technical Education, and then submitted to the High School Equivalency Diploma Program office.
5. Students will be eligible to schedule GED exams once waiver form has been approved by the High School Equivalency Diploma Program office and the age-restriction has been lifted.
6. In the event a waiver request is denied, candidates can appeal that decision. The appeal process is as follows:
  - a. Appeal requests must be submitted in writing to the ACE Coordinator
  - b. ACE Director will review appeal and conduct meeting with applicant

c. Resulting decision will be provided in writing and mailed to applicant

Copies of this written policy and process can be found on our website: [www.leeschools.net/ace](http://www.leeschools.net/ace)

For questions regarding the School District of Lee County Underage GED Waiver process, please contact  
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(239) 939-6310  
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