



Issuance of the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma

*Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education
Division of Adult Education Policy*

Subject: **Issuance of the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma**
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Effective: Immediately
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POLICY STATEMENT

Individuals may possess only one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.

PURPOSE

Pennsylvania residents who meet eligibility requirements can earn a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma by passing the GED® test, by passing the HiSET® exam, or by completing 30 semester hours of postsecondary level coursework at an institution of postsecondary education accredited in the United States. This policy serves to clarify that, while there are three options to earn the credential, an individual may only possess one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.

GUIDANCE

22 PA Code §4.72 states that the “Commonwealth secondary school diploma may be issued to an applicant who is a resident of this Commonwealth and **does not possess a secondary school diploma** (emphasis added).” Once an individual has been issued a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma that individual possesses a secondary school diploma and is therefore not eligible for additional diplomas. In cases in which an individual is incorrectly in possession of more than one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma, the first diploma earned will be considered the valid diploma and any subsequent diplomas will be considered invalid.