



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

R. Scott Ralls, Ph.D.

President

February 26, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
Basic Skills Directors

FROM: Sharon Morrissey
NCCCS Executive Vice President
for Programs and Chief Academic Officer

RE: State Board Action: Name Change for High School Equivalency Diploma

At the February 21, 2014 meeting, the State Board of Community Colleges approved a name change for the high school equivalency diploma. The rationale for changing the name from “North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges General Educational Development Diploma” to “North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges High School Equivalency Diploma” is that Pearson VUE, which now owns GED® Testing Service, has copyrighted the GED® name and logo and may in the future charge fees for the use of the copyrighted name. In addition, GED® Testing Service is no longer a sole source provider of high school equivalency assessments, and NCCCS is undertaking a review of other vendors which North Carolina may use in the future. Therefore, the name of North Carolina’s high school equivalency credential should not be associated with any one particular assessment.

As a related item, the System Office is undertaking a review to replace the acronym “GED” with the words “high school equivalency” in all publications and websites. Likewise, I encourage colleges to conduct a review of your catalogs, program admissions publications, websites, applications, and other publications to replace “GED” with “high school equivalency.”

If you have questions about this name change, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Randy Whitfield, Associate Vice President, College & Career Readiness (whitfieldr@nccommunitycolleges.edu).

c: Dr. Scott Ralls
Dr. Randy Whitfield
Ms. Diane Steinbeiser

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Email