

HSED Alternative Pathways Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will the career inventory/interest survey be available in a language other than English, or is the expectation that the assessment is assessing English proficiency?

The career/interest resources are actually provided by third party vendors, not something the Department has created. The three free tools that came recommended to us were Future Ready Iowa, MySkills, MyFuture, and O-Net. IWD was contacted to find out if they knew of any career inventory/interest assessments offered in Spanish and the response was no. If programs locate any Spanish versions, please notify Jayne Smith and they will add them to the Implementation Guide.

2. Has Sandra Smith been involved in any of these discussions as to how the education programs in Corrections will be impacted by these changes?

Yes, in fact Sandra Smith was on the original Task Force.

Will they be required to follow the intake processes, etc.?

Yes. (Also, the Career Assessment component does not need to be online).

How will age verification occur for these offenders who are exempted from having an age waiver form or parental permission?

The correctional facilities will determine how age verification and/or parental permission are handled for their students.

3. Staff anticipates we will have more students in need of translation services access options, particularly option 4. What assistance can the DE provide to help with translation and discussions on options, etc.?

The DE will not be providing assistance with translation of domestic or foreign credentials. However, foreign credential evaluation service providers are listed in the Implementation Guide. The National Association for College Admissions and Registrars (AACRAO) has a product called AACRO EDGE that programs may purchase. Also, ECE: Foreign Credential Evaluation Reports offers a variety of international education reports, services, and resources for individuals, institutions, and agencies. (Disclaimer: The DE does not endorse either of these products and requests that programs make their own determination and evaluations of the products to be used for translation).

4. Who will be responsible for the evaluation of the transcripts for Option 3? Does that fall on the local program? If so, what guidance will be provided on how/what classes are to count toward earning a HSED from an associate degree or higher?

In Option 3 (HSED Program Based on Postsecondary Degree) programs will not need to evaluate transcripts. The actual associate or postsecondary degree from an accredited institution serves as the credentials needed to award a HSED.

However, the degree must be awarded by a regionally accredited postsecondary institution.

5. Who will be responsible for the evaluation of the transcripts for Option 4? Does that fall on the local program? If so, what guidance will be provided on how/what classes are to count toward earning a HSED from an associate degree or higher?

In Option 4 (HSED Program Based on Foreign Postsecondary Degree), programs will need to evaluate transcripts. The DE will not be providing assistance with translation of domestic or foreign credentials. However, foreign credential evaluation service providers are listed in the Implementation Guide. The National Association for College Admissions and Registrars (AACRAO) has a product called AACRO EDGE that programs may purchase. Also, ECE: Foreign Credential Evaluation Reports offers a variety of international education reports, services, and resources for individuals, institutions, and agencies. (Disclaimer: The DE does not endorse either of these products and requests that programs make their own determination and evaluations of the products to be used for translation).

6. If a student in Option 3 does not have US government, will they still be able to earn a diploma? That's required in option 2.

Under Option 3 (HSED Program Based on Postsecondary Degree), the student would still be able to earn a HSED diploma even if he/she had not taken U.S. government. The actual associate or postsecondary *degree* from an accredited institution serves as the credential needed to award a HSED.

7. Is it anticipated that we'll be able to transition students over on option 2 starting on July 1st?

Yes. The application to offer additional HSED Alternative Pathway Options will be evaluated internally the week of May 21st and distributed out to the local programs by the end of May.