

APPENDIX 302

GUIDELINES FOR THE ONGOING QUALITY MONITORING OF JOB CORPS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD) PROGRAMS

Job Corps high school programs must provide students with a portable, widely accepted high school diploma (HSD) program as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (see 20 [CFR § 686.505](#)). These programs must provide proof of ongoing quality monitoring to enable students to meet challenging academic achievement standards and attain their high school diploma.

Since the adoption of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), State Education Agencies (SEA) have developed and implemented a state accountability system to ensure that schools deliver quality education to all students and adopt high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers. These accountability systems provide the mechanism for monitoring school program quality and performance.

In order to ensure the quality of high school programs offered to students at Job Corps centers, these programs must meet and provide documented evidence of the following requirements as applicable:

1. **Public schools, including public charter and magnet schools**, are required by the SEA to participate in ongoing quality monitoring through their Local Education Agency (LEA). Public schools that partner with Job Corps that participate fully in their states' accountability program, must provide a hyperlink to their state's ESSA accountability system/dashboard.¹

When a link to the state's ESSA accountability dashboard is not available, schools may opt to undergo an accreditation review and obtain an accredited status by the following bodies:

- i. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on secondary school accreditation can be found on the agency's Commission for Independent Schools (CIS) and Commission on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) links at www.neasc.org.
- ii. The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on secondary accreditation can be found on the association's Commission on Secondary Schools website at <https://www.msa-cess.org>.
- iii. Cognia. Information on the accreditation process can be found at <https://www.cognia.org/services/accreditation-certification>. Cognia includes the following legacy agencies:
 - The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School

¹ Private schools that receive ESSA funds and participate in their SEA's accountability system may also show ongoing monitoring via a hyperlink to that system/dashboard.

- Improvement
- The Northwest Accreditation Commission
 - The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
- iv. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on accreditation can be found on the association's Accrediting Commission for Schools website at www.acswasc.org.
2. **Private schools**, including online private schools, must ensure ongoing quality monitoring of these programs, and provide documented evidence of full, multi-year accreditation status in good standing certified by a recognized accreditation body. Private schools, including online private schools, that partner with Job Corps must be accredited by one of the following accreditation bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as reliable authorities to the quality of education or training provided by institutions of higher education and higher education programs.
- i. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on secondary school accreditation can be found on the agency's Commission for Independent Schools (CIS) and Commission on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) links at www.neasc.org.
- ii. The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on secondary accreditation can be found on the association's Commission on Secondary Schools website at <https://www.msa-cess.org>.
- iii. Cognia. Information on the accreditation process can be found at <https://www.cognia.org/services/accreditation-certification>. Cognia includes the following legacy agencies:
- The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement
 - The Northwest Accreditation Commission
 - The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
- iv. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Information on accreditation can be found on the association's Accrediting Commission for Schools website at www.acswasc.org.

Private schools that receive ESSA funds and participate in their SEA's accountability system may instead show ongoing monitoring via a hyperlink to that system/dashboard in lieu of accreditation documentation.

3. If the high school diploma program implemented at the Job Corps center is an **online HSD program**, it must:

- a. Meet and provide documented evidence of the requirements specified in 1 or 2 above, and
 - b. Provide documented evidence of current accreditation status by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), <http://www.deac.org>.
4. If the high school diploma program implemented at the Job Corps center is a **center-run HSD program**, it must:
- a. Provide documented evidence of State Educational Agency (SEA) granted authority for the center to award a standard high school diploma in the State in which the center operates, as determined under State law, except that the term does not include any education beyond grade 12, and
 - b. Provide documented evidence for meeting the requirements specified in 1 or 2 above.