

1 SCHOOL AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT AT HOME IS LIMITED OR NON-EXISTENT; LIMITED
2 OR NO ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS; PARENTS ARE UNEMPLOYED, RECEIVE PUBLIC
3 ASSISTANCE, OR ARE WORKING POOR; PARENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BUT DO NOT
4 ACCESS EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS AND ARE FINANCIALLY UNSTABLE.

5 THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS THAT A PROGRAM IS NEEDED TO BE DIRECTED
6 AT SEVENTEEN TO TWENTY YEAR OLD OVER-AGE, UNDER-CREDITED HIGH SCHOOL
7 STUDENTS ALLOWING SUCH STUDENT TO BE "TRANSFERRED" TO AN ADULT EDUCATION
8 PROGRAM INSTEAD OF BEING CONSIDERED A HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT. SUCH A
9 PROGRAM WOULD HELP THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE UNDER-CREDITED, OVER-AGED, OR
10 BEING PUSHED-OUT OF THEIR SCHOOL SYSTEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR
11 EDUCATION THEREBY GIVING THOSE STUDENTS ACCREDITATION AND THE RIGHT
12 TOOLS FOR SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURES. THE LEGISLATURE THEREFORE ESTAB-
13 LISHES THE OVER-AGE AND UNDER-CREDIT STUDENT PROGRAM.

14 S 4951. OVER-AGE AND UNDER-CREDIT STUDENT PROGRAM. 1. THE COMMISSIONER
15 IS HEREBY DIRECTED TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH A PROGRAM THAT ENABLES OVER-
16 AGE, UNDER-CREDIT YOUTH IN NEW YORK STATE TO OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLO-
17 MA OR THE EQUIVALENT AND MAKE AN EFFECTIVE TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT OR
18 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR POSTSECONDARY-LEVEL TRAINING. THIS INCLUDES
19 POSTSECONDARY DEGREE CREDIT STUDY, ADVANCED TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIP, OR
20 EMPLOYMENT WITH A CAREER LADDER.

21 2. STUDENTS WHO EXIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHOUT A DIPLOMA SHALL BE TRANS-
22 FERRED TO APPROPRIATE PROGRAMMING FOR PURSUIT AND COMPLETION OF A GENER-
23 AL EDUCATION DIPLOMA (GED).

24 3. THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOGNIZE AND ALLOW ALTERNA-
25 TIVE CREDENTIALING FOR OVER-AGE, UNDER-CREDIT SEVENTEEN TO TWENTY YEAR
26 OLD STUDENTS. THESE ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS SHALL INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT
27 LIMITED TO: GENERAL EDUCATION EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS, ENTRY TO EMPLOYMENT,
28 ENTRY TO POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL, TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, WORK-
29 PLACE TRAINING CREDENTIAL AND ACCEPTABLE SCORES ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE
30 EXAMS ENABLING THE STUDENT TO ENTER COLLEGE CREDIT CLASSES.

31 4. SUCH ACTIONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION
32 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM AS A TRANSFER RATHER THAN A DROP-OUT.

33 5. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A CREDENTIAL IDENTIFIED ABOVE SHALL BE
34 CONSIDERED A VALUED OUTCOME WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

35 6. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASED FUNDING TO COVER
36 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DELIVERING A HIGH QUALITY GED/VOCATIONAL
37 PROGRAM TO OVER-AGE, UNDER-CREDITED YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVENTEEN
38 AND TWENTY YEARS OLD EITHER ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL OR ALTERNATIVE
39 PROGRAMMING.

40 S 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2013; provided, however, that
41 effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule
42 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-
43 tive date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or
44 before such effective date.