

STATE OF NEW YORK

129--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ZACCARO, CRUZ, DAVILA, HEVESI, DeSTEFANO, MANKTE-
LOW, RAMOS, CHANDLER-WATERMAN, JONES, BROOK-KRASNY -- Multi-Sponsored
by -- M. of A. REYES -- read once and referred to the Committee on
Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as
amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, the correction law, the administra-
tive code of the city of New York, the civil service law, the execu-
tive law, the labor law, the parks, recreation and historic preserva-
tion law, the social services law and the state finance law, in
relation to changing the name of the general education development
diploma to the Excelsior diploma

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 317 of the education law, as added by chapter 170
2 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:
3 § 317. [~~General—education—development~~] Excelsior diploma exam.
4 Notwithstanding any provision of law, no fee shall be established for
5 admission to the [~~general education development~~] Excelsior diploma exam.
6 § 2. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new
7 subdivision 63 to read as follows:
8 63. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to change
9 the name of the state high school equivalency diploma, as established
10 pursuant to section 100.7 of title eight of the New York codes, rules
11 and regulations, to the Excelsior diploma.
12 § 3. Subdivision 19 of section 2 of the correction law, as amended by
13 chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:
14 19. "Vocational and skills training facility" means a correctional
15 facility designated by the commissioner to provide a vocational and
16 skills training program ("VAST") to incarcerated individuals who need
17 such service before they participate in a work release program. The VAST

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00560-02-5

1 facility shall provide intensive assessment, counseling, job search
2 assistance and where appropriate academic and vocational instruction to
3 program participants. Such assistance may include an assessment of any
4 incarcerated individual's education attainment level and skills apti-
5 tudes; career counseling and exploration; the development of a compre-
6 hensive instructional plan including identification of educational and
7 training needs that may extend beyond the date of entry into work
8 release; instructional programs including [~~GED~~] Excelsior diploma prepa-
9 ration or post-secondary instruction as appropriate; occupational skills
10 training; life skills training; employment readiness including workplace
11 behavior; and job search assistance. The department and the department
12 of labor shall jointly develop activities providing career counseling,
13 job search assistance, and job placement services for participants.
14 Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to modify the eligi-
15 bility requirements provided by law applicable to incarcerated individ-
16 uals participating in a work release program.

17 § 4. The seventh undesignated paragraph of subdivision a of section
18 9-151 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by
19 local law number 168 of the city of New York for the year 2017, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 High school equivalency diploma test. The term "high school equivalen-
22 cy diplomacy test" means any test offered by the New York state educa-
23 tion department for the purpose of establishing the equivalent of a high
24 school diploma, including, but not limited to, a [~~general-education~~
25 ~~development~~] Excelsior diploma test or the test assessing secondary
26 completion.

27 § 5. Subdivision a of section 21-408 of the administrative code of the
28 city of New York, as added by local law number 86 of the city of New
29 York for the year 2018, is amended to read as follows:

30 a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the term "test
31 assessing secondary completion (TASC)" means the [~~New-York-state~~]
32 Excelsior [~~high-school-equivalency~~] diploma test which replaced the
33 General Education Development (GED) as the primary pathway to [~~a-New~~
34 ~~York-state-high-school-equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma.

35 § 6. Subdivision b and paragraph 4 of subdivision c of section 21-703
36 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local
37 law number 23 of the city of New York for the year 2003, are amended to
38 read as follows:

39 b. If an applicant, recipient or participant who is eligible for
40 education or training as set forth in subdivision c of this section
41 expresses an intention or preference to the agency to enroll in educa-
42 tion, training or vocational rehabilitation, or if an applicant's,
43 recipient's or participant's assessment indicates that [~~he-or-she~~] such
44 applicant, recipient or participant lacks basic literacy, a secondary
45 school diploma, or a [~~general-equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma [~~(GED)~~] or
46 otherwise indicates that education, training or vocational rehabili-
47 tation would enhance the individual's ability to obtain and maintain
48 employment, then the agency shall offer such applicant, recipient or
49 participant the opportunity to enroll in an approved program or
50 programs, provided that such approved program or programs can be classi-
51 fied as countable work activities.

52 4. An applicant, recipient or participant is eligible to participate
53 in a [~~GED~~] Excelsior diploma program if [~~e/he~~] such applicant, recipient
54 or participant has attained basic literacy but has not received a
55 secondary school diploma.

1 § 7. The twentieth undesignated paragraph of subdivision a of section
2 21-902.1 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as amended
3 by local law number 145 of the city of New York for the year 2016, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Test assessing secondary completion (TASC). The term "test assessing
6 secondary completion (TASC)" means the [~~New York state high school~~
7 ~~equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma test which replaced the general education
8 development examination as the primary pathway to [~~a New York state high~~
9 ~~school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma.

10 § 8. The eleventh undesignated paragraph of subdivision a of section
11 21-924 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by
12 local law number 21 of the city of New York for the year 2024, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 High school equivalency diploma test. The term "high school equivalen-
15 cy diploma test" means any test that the New York state education
16 department offers for the purpose of establishing the equivalent of a
17 high school diploma, including, but not limited to, a [~~general education~~
18 ~~development~~] Excelsior diploma test or the test assessing secondary
19 completion.

20 § 9. Paragraph 5 of subdivision a of section 9-137 of the adminis-
21 trative code of the city of New York, as amended by chapter 322 of the
22 laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

23 5. Educational background as self-reported by incarcerated individuals
24 after admission to the custody of the department, categorized as follows
25 based on the highest level of education achieved: no high school diploma
26 or [~~general education~~] Excelsior diploma, [~~a general education~~] an
27 Excelsior diploma, a high school diploma, some college but no degree, an
28 associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or a post-collegiate degree.

29 § 10. Subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 of section
30 803 of the correction law, as separately amended by chapters 242 and 322
31 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

32 (iv) Such merit time allowance may be granted when an incarcerated
33 individual successfully participates in the work and treatment program
34 assigned pursuant to section eight hundred five of this article and when
35 such incarcerated individual obtains [~~a general equivalency~~] an Excels-
36 ior diploma, an alcohol and substance abuse treatment certificate, a
37 vocational trade certificate following at least six months of vocational
38 programming, at least eighteen credits in a program registered by the
39 state education department from a degree-granting higher education
40 institution or performs at least four hundred hours of service as part
41 of a community work crew.

42 Such allowance shall be withheld for any serious disciplinary infrac-
43 tion or upon a judicial determination that the person, while an incar-
44 cerated individual, commenced or continued a civil action, proceeding or
45 claim that was found to be frivolous as defined in subdivision (c) of
46 section eight thousand three hundred three-a of the civil practice law
47 and rules, or an order of a federal court pursuant to rule 11 of the
48 federal rules of civil procedure imposing sanctions in an action
49 commenced by a person, while an incarcerated individual, against a state
50 agency, officer or employee.

51 § 11. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 58 of the civil
52 service law, as amended by chapter 244 of the laws of 2013, is amended
53 to read as follows:

54 (b) [~~he or she~~] such person is a high school graduate or a holder of
55 [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma, or a high school
56 equivalency diploma issued by an education department of any of the

1 states of the United States or a holder of a comparable diploma issued
2 by any commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States or by
3 the Canal Zone or a holder of a report from the United States armed
4 forces certifying [~~his or her~~] their successful completion of the tests
5 of general educational development, high school level;

6 § 12. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 352-a of the educa-
7 tion law, as amended by section 1 of part II of chapter 56 of the laws
8 of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

9 (b) To be eligible to receive such nomination and scholarship, the
10 applicant must be a resident of the state. For purposes of this section,
11 a state resident shall be defined as a person who has resided in the
12 state of New York for a period of at least one year prior to the time of
13 nomination, is a graduate or within one year of graduation from an
14 approved high school or has attained [~~a New York state high school~~
15 ~~equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or its equivalent as determined by the
16 commissioner.

17 § 13. Clause (ii) of subparagraph 8 of paragraph h of subdivision 2 of
18 section 355 of the education law, as amended by chapter 669 of the laws
19 of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

20 (ii) attended an approved New York state program for [~~general equiv-~~
21 ~~alency~~] an Excelsior diploma exam preparation, received [~~a general~~
22 ~~equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma issued within New York state and
23 applied for attendance at an institution or educational unit of the
24 state university within five years of receiving [~~a general equivalency~~]
25 an Excelsior diploma issued within New York state; or

26 § 14. Subdivision 2 of section 610 of the education law, as added by
27 chapter 425 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

28 2. Eligibility for scholarship. Liberty scholarships shall be awarded
29 to persons:

30 a. who have applied for such scholarship;

31 b. who have graduated from a secondary school located within New York
32 state or have received [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma
33 from New York state;

34 c. who have not attained the age of twenty-two as of June thirtieth
35 prior to the academic year for which the initial award is received and
36 who are undergraduate students receiving aid under this chapter for the
37 first time during academic year nineteen hundred ninety-one--nineteen
38 hundred ninety-two or thereafter;

39 d. who have enrolled in an approved program in a degree-granting
40 institution located in New York state within twenty-four months of the
41 date that the recipient graduated from secondary school or received [~~a~~
42 ~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma, provided that those
43 students who are temporarily unable to avail themselves of the award due
44 to illness, military service or other causes in accordance with rules of
45 the board of regents prior to receipt of the first payment of an award
46 may be granted a leave of absence pursuant to regulations of the trus-
47 tees of the higher education services corporation;

48 e. who satisfy the requirements of section six hundred sixty-one of
49 this [~~chapter~~] title;

50 f. who retain good academic standing as defined by the commissioner;
51 and

52 g. who qualify for a scholarship pursuant to subdivision six of this
53 section.

54 § 15. Subparagraph 7 of paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 612 of
55 the education law, as added by chapter 425 of the laws of 1988, is
56 amended to read as follows:

1 (7) the degree to which the institution proposes to cooperate with
2 school districts and not-for-profit community based organizations to
3 provide services and insure continuity of such services until such
4 students graduate from high school or receive [~~a high school equivalen-~~
5 ~~cy~~] an Excelsior diploma.

6 § 16. Clause (b) of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph a of subdivision 5
7 of section 661 of the education law, as amended by chapter 26 of the
8 laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

9 (b) attended an approved New York state program for [~~a state~~] an
10 Excelsior [~~high school equivalency~~] diploma, received [~~a state~~] an
11 Excelsior [~~high school equivalency~~] diploma and applied for attendance
12 at the institution of higher education for the undergraduate study for
13 which an award is sought within five years of receiving [~~a state high~~
14 ~~school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma; or

15 § 17. Subdivision 2 of section 679-g of the education law, as added by
16 section 1 of part C of chapter 56 of the laws of 2015, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this section,
19 an applicant shall: (a) have graduated from a high school located in New
20 York state or attended an approved New York state program for [~~a state~~
21 ~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma and received such [~~high~~
22 ~~school equivalency~~] diploma; (b) have graduated and obtained an under-
23 graduate degree from a college or university with its headquarters
24 located in New York state in or after the two thousand fourteen--fifteen
25 academic year; (c) apply for this program within two years of obtaining
26 such degree; (d) be a participant in a federal income-driven repayment
27 plan whose payment amount is generally ten percent of discretionary
28 income; (e) have income of less than fifty thousand dollars; (f) comply
29 with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of
30 this part; and (g) work in New York state, if employed. For purposes of
31 this program, "income" shall be the total adjusted gross income of the
32 applicant and the applicant's spouse, if applicable.

33 § 18. Subdivision 5 of section 3622-a of the education law, as amended
34 by chapter 422 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

35 5. Transportation of pupils during the school day to and from programs
36 at a board of cooperative educational services or to or from approved
37 shared programs at other school districts, which programs may lead to a
38 diploma or [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or to or
39 from career education programs operated within the district;

40 § 19. Subdivision 1 of section 6451 of the education law, as amended
41 by chapter 917 of the laws of 1970, is amended to read as follows:

42 1. To advance the cause of educational opportunity in higher educa-
43 tion, the commissioner may contract with non-public institutions of
44 higher education for the support of special programs for the screening,
45 testing, counseling, tutoring of, and, assistance to, residents of the
46 state who are, (1) graduates of an approved high school or individuals
47 who have attained [~~a New York state high school equivalency~~] an Excels-
48 ior diploma or its equivalent, as determined by the commissioner, (2)
49 who have potential for the successful completion of a post secondary
50 program, and (3) are economically and educationally disadvantaged, as
51 defined by the regents.

52 § 20. Subdivision 1 of section 6452 of the education law, as added by
53 chapter 917 of the laws of 1970, is amended to read as follows:

54 1. To provide additional educational opportunity at the state univer-
55 sity of New York and the city university of New York, such institutions
56 shall provide special programs for the screening, testing, counseling,

1 and tutoring of, and assistance to, residents of the state who are, (1)
2 graduates of an approved high school or individuals who have attained [~~a~~
3 ~~New York state high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or its
4 equivalent, as determined by the commissioner, (2) who have potential
5 for the successful completion of a post secondary program, and (3) are
6 economically and educationally disadvantaged.

7 § 21. Clause 2 of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2
8 and clause 2 of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of
9 section 6455 of the education law, as amended by chapter 26 of the laws
10 of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

11 (2) attended an approved New York state program for [~~a state~~] an
12 Excelsior [~~high school equivalency~~] diploma, received [~~a state~~] an
13 Excelsior [~~high school equivalency~~] diploma and applied for attendance
14 at the institution of higher education for the undergraduate study for
15 which an award is sought within five years of receiving [~~a state high~~
16 ~~school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma; or

17 (2) attended an approved New York state program for [~~a state high~~
18 ~~school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma, received a state [~~high school~~
19 ~~equivalency~~] diploma and applied for attendance at the institution of
20 higher education for the graduate study for which an award is sought
21 within ten years of receiving [~~a state~~] an Excelsior [~~high school equiv-~~
22 ~~alency~~] diploma; or

23 § 22. Subdivision 4 of section 532-d of the executive law, as amended
24 by section 5 of part M of chapter 56 of the laws of 2017, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 4. for a homeless youth whose service plan involves independent
27 living, provide practical assistance in achieving independence, either
28 through direct provision of services or through written agreements with
29 other community and public agencies for the provision of services in the
30 following areas; high school education or [~~high school equivalency~~
31 ~~education~~] an Excelsior diploma; higher education assessment; job train-
32 ing and job placement; counseling; assistance in the development of
33 socialization skills; guidance and assistance in securing housing appro-
34 priate to needs and income; and training in the development of skills
35 necessary for responsible independent living, including but not limited
36 to money and home management, personal care, and health maintenance; and

37 § 23. Subdivision 15 of section 42 of the labor law, as added by
38 section 6 of part E of chapter 389 of the laws of 1997, is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 15. Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary,
41 the department shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary
42 president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and the chair of
43 the legislative commission on skills development and vocational educa-
44 tion, an annual evaluation report of this program no later than October
45 thirty-first following the end of the program year. The report shall
46 include a statement of program objectives which identifies outcomes and
47 indicators of the effectiveness of the program. It shall represent the
48 extent to which program activities meet program objectives including,
49 but not limited to, improvements in participants' educational competen-
50 cies and employability skills as measured by accepted testing tools. The
51 basic measures of performance for projects for in-school youth shall be:
52 high school retention, attainment of a high school diploma, enrollment
53 in a post-secondary educational program or vocational skills training
54 program, or attainment of unsubsidized employment. The basic measure of
55 performance for projects for out-of-school youth shall be: improvement
56 in basic academic and vocational skills, return to high school, attain-

1 ment of [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma, enrollment in
2 a post-secondary educational program or vocational skills training
3 program, or attainment of unsubsidized employment. The report shall
4 include a separate count of participants who have participated in the
5 same program model through more than one program cycle. A methodology
6 shall be prescribed which requires collection of post-program informa-
7 tion on program participants including, but not limited to, whether a
8 participant receives a high school degree or [~~its equivalent~~] an Excels-
9 ior diploma and subsequent labor market experience for one year follow-
10 ing termination from the program, and the extent to which the partic-
11 ipant achieved outcomes as defined by the certified program model. The
12 report shall also describe the types of support services provided,
13 levels of expenditure, and demonstrate how such support services improve
14 participant involvement in local projects.

15 § 24. Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph t of subdivision 4 of section
16 3.23 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, as amended
17 by chapter 717 of the laws of 1988, is amended to read as follows:

18 (iii) encouraging corps members to continue studies during non-working
19 hours to complete [~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or
20 college courses or job skill training;

21 § 25. Subdivision 1 and paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 335
22 of the social services law, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 819 of
23 the laws of 2022, paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 as amended by section
24 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, are amended to read as
25 follows:

26 1. Each social services official shall ensure that each recipient of
27 public assistance who is a member of a household with dependent children
28 and is eighteen years of age or older, or who is sixteen or seventeen
29 years of age and is not attending secondary school and has not completed
30 high school or [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma
31 program, receives an assessment of employability based on [~~his or her~~]
32 their educational level, including literacy and English language profi-
33 ciency, basic skills proficiency, child care and other supportive
34 services needs; and skills, prior work experience, training and voca-
35 tional interests. This assessment shall include a review of family
36 circumstances including a review of any special needs of a child and
37 whether home visiting services would be appropriate and beneficial for
38 the family. Such assessment shall be completed within ninety days of the
39 date on which such person is determined eligible for public assistance.
40 An applicant for or recipient of public assistance may be assigned to
41 work activities prior to completion of such assessment.

42 (b) Where an assessment indicates that a participant who is not
43 subject to the education requirements of subdivision four of section
44 three hundred thirty-six-a of this [~~title~~] article has not attained a
45 basic literacy level, the social services official shall encourage and
46 may require the participant to enter a program to achieve basic literacy
47 or [~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or to enter such
48 educational programs in combination with other training activities
49 consistent with the employability plan.

50 § 26. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 335-a of the social
51 services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the
52 laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

53 (b) Where an assessment indicates that a participant who is not
54 subject to the education requirements of this title has not attained a
55 basic literacy level, the social services official shall encourage and
56 may require the participant to enter a program to achieve basic literacy

1 or [~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma or to enter such
2 educational programs in combination with other training activities
3 consistent with the employability plan.

4 § 27. Paragraphs (j) and (k) of subdivision 1 of section 336 of the
5 social services law, as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436
6 of the laws of 1997, are amended to read as follows:

7 (j) education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipi-
8 ent who has not yet received a high school diploma or [~~a certificate of~~
9 ~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma;

10 (k) satisfactory attendance at secondary school or a course of study
11 leading to [~~a certificate of general equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma
12 in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or
13 received such certificate;

14 § 28. Subdivisions 1 and 2 and the opening paragraph and paragraph (a)
15 of subdivision 4 of section 336-a of the social services law, subdivi-
16 sion 1 as amended by section 1 of part X of chapter 56 of the laws of
17 2023, subdivision 2 and the opening paragraph and paragraph (a) of
18 subdivision 4 as amended by section 148 of part B of chapter 436 of the
19 laws of 1997, are amended to read as follows:

20 1. Social services districts shall make available vocational educa-
21 tional training and educational activities. Such activities may include
22 but need not be limited to, high school education or education designed
23 to prepare a participant for [~~a high school equivalency certificate~~] an
24 Excelsior diploma, basic and remedial education, education in English
25 proficiency, education or a course of instruction in financial literacy
26 and personal finance that includes instruction on household cash manage-
27 ment techniques, career advice to obtain a well paying and secure job,
28 using checking and savings accounts, obtaining and utilizing short and
29 long term credit, securing a loan or other long term financing arrange-
30 ment for high cost items, participation in a higher education course of
31 instruction or trade school, and no more than a total of four years of
32 post-secondary education (or the part-time equivalent). Educational
33 activities pursuant to this section may be offered with any of the
34 following providers which meet the performance or assessment standards
35 established in regulations by the commissioner for such providers: a
36 community college, licensed trade school, registered business school, or
37 a two-year or four-year college; provided, however, that such post-sec-
38 ondary education must be necessary to the attainment of the partic-
39 ipant's individual employment goal as set forth in the employability
40 plan and such goal must relate directly to obtaining useful employment.
41 When making an assignment to any educational activity pursuant to this
42 subdivision, such assignment shall be permitted only to the extent that
43 such assignment is consistent with the individual's assessment and
44 employment plan goals in accordance with sections three hundred thirty-
45 five and three hundred thirty-five-a of this title and shall require
46 that the individual maintains satisfactory academic progress and hourly
47 participation is documented consistent with federal and state require-
48 ments. For purposes of this provision "satisfactory academic progress"
49 shall mean having a cumulative C average, or its equivalent, as deter-
50 mined by the academic institution. The requirement to maintain satisfac-
51 tory academic progress may be waived if done so by the academic institu-
52 tion and the social services district based on undue hardship caused by
53 an event such as a personal injury or illness of the student, the death
54 of a relative of the student or other extenuating circumstances. Partic-
55 ipation in an educational and/or vocational training program, that shall
56 include, but not be limited to, a two-year post-secondary degree

1 program, which is necessary for the participant to attain their individ-
 2 ual employment goal and is likely to lead to a degree or certification
 3 and sustained employment, shall be approved consistent with such indi-
 4 vidual's assessment and employability plan to the extent that such
 5 approval does not jeopardize the state's ability to comply with federal
 6 work participation rates, as determined by the office of temporary and
 7 disability assistance.

8 2. When a district contracts with a proprietary vocational school to
 9 provide vocational educational training to participants, not more than
 10 twenty-five percent of the approved duration of the program shall be
 11 devoted to preparation for [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior
 12 diploma or instruction in English for students with limited proficiency
 13 in English. Participants needing instruction in basic literacy shall be
 14 referred to basic education programs. Instructors employed by proprie-
 15 tary schools to prepare a participant for [~~a high school equivalency~~
 16 ~~certificate~~] an Excelsior diploma or for education in English proficien-
 17 cy shall meet experience requirements established by the regulations of
 18 the commissioner of education.

19 To the extent provided in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subdivi-
 20 sion and if resources permit, each social services official shall assign
 21 to appropriate educational activities any participant who has not
 22 obtained a high school diploma or [~~its equivalent~~] an Excelsior diploma:

23 (a) In accordance with the provisions of this chapter, any such
 24 participant who is under age eighteen shall be required to attend educa-
 25 tional activities designed to prepare the individual for a high school
 26 degree or [~~equivalency certificate~~] an Excelsior diploma. Participants
 27 who are not subject to compulsory school attendance requirements may be
 28 exempted from the requirements of this paragraph under criteria estab-
 29 lished by the department in consultation with the state education
 30 department and consistent with federal law and regulations.

31 § 29. Section 97-hhh of the state finance law, as added by section 84
 32 of part A of chapter 436 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as
 33 follows:

34 § 97-hhh. [~~High school equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma account. 1.
 35 There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comp-
 36 troller and the commissioner of the department of taxation and finance
 37 an account of the miscellaneous special revenue fund to be known as the
 38 [~~high school equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma account.

39 2. Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the contrary,
 40 the state comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to receive for
 41 deposit to the credit of the [~~high school equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma
 42 account, fees established by the commissioner of education and approved
 43 by the director of the budget to supplement administration of the
 44 [~~general educational development~~] tests for the [~~high school equivalen-~~
 45 ~~cy~~] Excelsior diploma.

46 3. Moneys of this account, following appropriation by the legislature,
 47 shall be available to the state education department for services and
 48 expenses related to the administration of the [~~general educational~~
 49 ~~development~~] tests for the [~~high school equivalency~~] Excelsior diploma.

50 § 30. Subdivision 3 of section 97-jjjj of the state finance law, as
 51 amended by section 1 of part VV of chapter 57 of the laws of 2010, is
 52 amended to read as follows:

53 3. Moneys of this account, following appropriation by the legislature,
 54 shall be available to the state education department for services and
 55 expenses relating to state assessments of elementary and secondary
 56 school students, including but not limited to the [~~state high school~~

1 ~~equivalency~~ Excelsior diploma examination. Moneys of this account shall
2 only be available for expenditure pursuant to approval of an expenditure
3 plan by the director of the budget.

4 § 31. Subparagraph 1 of paragraph d of subdivision 1 of section 3602
5 of the education law, as amended by section 11 of part B of chapter 57
6 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:

7 (1) Equivalent attendance shall mean the quotient of the total number
8 of student hours of instruction in programs in a public school of a
9 school district or a board of cooperative educational services leading
10 to a high school diploma or [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior
11 diploma as defined in regulations of the commissioner for pupils under
12 the age of twenty-one not on a regular day school register of the
13 district, divided by one thousand. Average daily attendance shall
14 include the equivalent attendance of the school district. For the
15 purposes of secondary school weighting, such equivalent attendance shall
16 be considered as average daily attendance in grades seven through
17 twelve.

18 § 32. Paragraphs a, a-1 and e of subdivision 11 of section 3602 of the
19 education law, paragraph a as amended by chapter 82 of the laws of 1995,
20 paragraph a-1 as amended by section 29-a of part A of chapter 56 of the
21 laws of 2024, paragraph e as amended and such subdivision as renumbered
22 by section 15 of part B of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007, are amended
23 to read as follows:

24 a. School districts and boards of cooperative educational services
25 (BOCES) providing approved programs shall be eligible for aid in accord-
26 ance with the provisions of this subdivision for the attendance of
27 persons twenty-one years of age or over who have not received a high
28 school diploma or [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma
29 recognized by New York State who attend employment preparation education
30 programs provided by such school districts or BOCES, which programs lead
31 to a high school diploma or [~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior
32 diploma as defined in regulations of the commissioner, even if such
33 persons attend regular day school classes with permission of the board
34 of education; provided that such programs are provided in accordance
35 with a plan of service approved by the commissioner in accordance with
36 the provisions of paragraph f of this subdivision. Such programs may
37 operate between July first and June thirtieth of a school year. Whenever
38 a person enrolls in a program approved pursuant to this subdivision
39 offered by a BOCES or in a school district other than their district of
40 residence, the program provider shall send a notice of such enrollment
41 to the persons district of residence, and shall issue a new notice if
42 such person moves from one district to another. In the event that the
43 cost of a program approved and provided in accordance with the
44 provisions of this subdivision exceeds all sources of funds, other than
45 tax levy revenues, which are available to defray such expenses, the
46 school district or BOCES providing such program shall determine an
47 excess cost per contact hour provided during the base year, and then
48 shall determine the local share of such excess costs for each school
49 district whose residents were served by such program by multiplying such
50 base year hours by the excess cost per contact hour, and such local
51 share shall be a charge against each such district, payable within
52 forty-five days. Notwithstanding the provisions of section nineteen
53 hundred fifty of this chapter, a BOCES shall be authorized to provide a
54 program pursuant to this subdivision in the same manner as a school
55 district.

1 a-1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph a of this subdivi-
2 sion, for aid payable in the school years two thousand--two thousand one
3 through two thousand nine--two thousand ten, and two thousand eleven--
4 two thousand twelve through two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twen-
5 ty-five, the commissioner may set aside an amount not to exceed two
6 million five hundred thousand dollars from the funds appropriated for
7 purposes of this subdivision for the purpose of serving persons twenty-
8 one years of age or older who have not been enrolled in any school for
9 the preceding school year, including persons who have received a high
10 school diploma or [~~high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma but
11 fail to demonstrate basic educational competencies as defined in regu-
12 lation by the commissioner, when measured by accepted standardized
13 tests, and who shall be eligible to attend employment preparation educa-
14 tion programs operated pursuant to this subdivision.

15 e. Employment preparation education apportionment. In addition to any
16 other aid payable under this section, the apportionment pursuant to this
17 subdivision shall be the product obtained when the employment prepara-
18 tion education hours are multiplied by the aid per contact hour which
19 shall equal the product of the employment preparation program aid ceil-
20 ing and the employment preparation education aid ratio computed to two
21 decimals, rounded, as calculated based on data on file with the commis-
22 sioner on May fifteenth of the base year. Notwithstanding the provisions
23 of section thirty-six hundred nine-a of this part, the payment of such
24 apportionment shall be based upon reports required by the commissioner
25 for the periods ending December thirty-first, and June thirtieth of each
26 school year; payments for the first reporting period shall be made after
27 April first, based on claims on file by March first, provided that the
28 total of all such payments shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the
29 amount for such school year, with the approved amount of such claims
30 reduced on a pro rata basis if necessary; the remainder of any payments
31 due for the first period plus any payments due for the rest of the
32 school year shall be paid after October first, based on claims on file
33 by September fifteenth, provided that the total of such payments shall
34 not exceed the total amount of ninety-six million dollars (\$96,000,000)
35 for such school year, with the approved amount of such claims reduced on
36 a pro rata basis if necessary, provided that the total of such payment
37 for services provided to persons who received a high school diploma or
38 [~~a high school equivalency~~] an Excelsior diploma recognized by New York
39 state shall not exceed the total amount set aside for such purpose
40 pursuant to paragraph a-one of this subdivision in any such school year,
41 with the approved amount of such claims reduced on a pro rata basis if
42 necessary; and aid paid pursuant to this paragraph shall not be included
43 in the computation of the district expenditure need as defined in such
44 section thirty-six hundred nine-a of this part. The employment prepara-
45 tion education apportionment for the city school district of the city of
46 New York shall be computed only for the city as a whole.

47 § 33. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
48 have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to section 803
49 of the correction law made by section ten of this act shall not affect
50 the expiration of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.
51 Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule
52 or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effec-
53 tive date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such
54 effective date.