

EVALUATING THE VALIDITY OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS (Sec. 668.16(p))

No changes from the NPRM

Rationale for Regulation: The department wants to stem the growing problem of high school diploma mills and ineligible students receiving student financial aid.

Key Provisions of the Regulation:

- Institutions must develop and follow procedures to determine the validity of a student's high school diploma if the institution or the Secretary has reason to believe that the diploma is not valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education.
- Further guidance on the evaluation process will be provided by the department.

NOTE: In the meantime, schools must have a process for validating diplomas for students who will be completing FAFSAs for the 2011-2012 school year. While the official implementation date is July 1, 2011, FAFSAs become available in January of 2011 and include questions regarding the high school the student. Thus, institutions should have a process for validation in place prior to the implementation date so as to be able to review any AY 2011-2012 cases that may arise before that date.

Regulatory Language:

Sec. 668.16 Standards of administrative capability.

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(p) Develops and follows procedures to evaluate the validity of a student's high school completion if the institution or the Secretary has reason to believe that the high school diploma is not valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education.