

Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council
High School/GED Policy
For
Initial State Certification

O.C.G.A. 25-4-8 (a)(6) requires that any person certified as a firefighter to have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) diploma. Providing one of the following may satisfy this requirement:

- a. High school diploma (copy)
- b. College diploma (copy)
- c. Certified high school transcript showing high school graduation
(A copy of a high school transcript will be accepted provided it has been notarized to be a true and exact copy of the original.)
- d. Certified college transcript showing high school graduation
(A copy of a college transcript will be accepted provided it has been notarized to be a true and exact copy of the original.)
- e. General educational development diploma (GED) (copy)

IMPORTANT

On September 17th, 2009 the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council voted the following policy into place concerning high school diplomas and General Equivalency Diplomas (GED). All submitted diplomas must be accredited through a nationally recognized group or association. Below are the guidelines that the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training staff uses to determine the legitimacy of the accreditation. If you have questions surrounding the diploma you wish to submit, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Public High School

GFSTC should use the definition of high school diploma as given by the Georgia Department of Education. We should be aware that there are also high school “certificates” and special education “diplomas” given to individuals, but these are not equivalent to a high school diploma as defined by the Georgia Department of Education. Candidates and agencies should check out the definitions at the Georgia Department of Education web site, <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/> , if they are unsure about a diploma or certificate. Any Georgia regulated and tax funded public school should be accepted.

Private High School

This is a high school that is funded by private monies. The student is usually required to pay for the educational services, or the student may be on a scholarship. Please check for the school’s accreditation at either the state, regional, or national level. Conduct an internet search for the school to see if it is accredited, and beware of common red flags for “diploma mills”. Common red flags are giving credit for “experience”, short time frame for completion, course work does not match common high school curriculum, and no accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency. The US DOE, CHEA, Georgia DOE and the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council should be used to determine accreditation.

Obtained GED

The individual passed the General Education Development (GED) test and was given a diploma indicating that they passed. The GED must be awarded by a state. United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) must be converted to a state awarded certificate. In order to convert the USAFI to a state awarded certificate, the candidate must correspond with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education. For more information on the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, see their web site at <http://www.dtae.org/>

Correspondence School

The individual completed and received a high school diploma by mail. Please check for the school's accreditation at either the state, regional, or national level. Conduct an internet search for the school to see if it is accredited, and beware of common red flags for "diploma mills". Common red flags are giving credit for "experience", short time frame for completion, course work does not match common high school curriculum, and no accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency. The US DOE, CHEA, Georgia DOE and the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council should be used to determine accreditation

Internet School

The individual completed and received a high school diploma using the internet. Please check for the school's accreditation at either the state, regional, or national level. Conduct an internet search for the school to see if it is accredited, and beware of common red flags for "diploma mills". Common red flags are giving credit for "experience", short time frame for completion, course work does not match common high school curriculum, and no accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency. The US DOE, CHEA, Georgia DOE and the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council should be used to determine accreditation

Home School* (*Affidavit Required)

The individual received a high school diploma by completing their education at home. GFSTC requires that an individual give a written attestation of their completion of a home study program. The home school program should be in accordance to O.C.G.A. 20-2-690. Two versions of this attestation are provided for candidates to use. One version is used if their parents are alive, and the parent is required to attest to this home study program completion in addition to the applicant. The second version is used if the applicant's parents are deceased. Special circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The individual can submit a request in writing with the details of the circumstance for review by the Executive Director.

Acceptance of an unaccredited high school diploma:

An unaccredited high school diploma can be accepted by GFSTC if the candidate has been accepted by a University System of Georgia college or University System of Georgia technical school. The candidate must provide adequate documentation of his/her successful completion of entrance exams and/or other admissions procedures.

A School Outside of the United States**

All international transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluation service and sent directly. The following evaluation agencies are recommended:

Josef Silny & Associates, Inc. <<http://www.jsilny.com/>>
7101 SW 102 Avenue
Miami, FL 33173
Telephone: (305) 273-1616
Fax: (305) 273-1338
E-mail: info@jsilny.com

Lisano International <<http://www.lisano-intl.com/>>
P.O. Box 407
Auburn, AL. 36831-0407
Telephone: (334) 745-0425
E-mail: LisanoINTL@AOL.com

World Education Service
Bowling Green Station
P.O. Box 5087
New York, NY 10274-5087
Telephone: 212-966-6311
Email: info@wes.org

High school transcripts or diplomas should be evaluated by the document evaluation method. Students with college credit or a degree from a college or university outside the United States must submit a course by course evaluation of the transcript.

If your high school diploma is from a home study/home school program please complete the appropriate affidavit below. By signing this form, you are swearing that you completed a home study/school program in accordance with Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1). If you have questions surrounding your home study/ home school diploma, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

If you have special circumstances that do not conform to these affidavits, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council for guidance.

AFFIDAVIT OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HOME STUDY PROGRAM FROM PARENT/GARDIAN

I, _____,
(Print Applicant Name)

hereby swear or affirm, under criminal penalty of a felony subject to punishment by fine of not more than \$ 1000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, that I received the attached home study diploma pursuant to my successful completion of a home study program as recognized by applicable Georgia Law.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Signature of Notary Public)

(Date)

NOTARY SEAL

If your high school diploma is from a home study/home school program please complete the appropriate affidavit below. By signing this form, you are swearing that you completed a home study/school program in accordance with Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1). If you have questions surrounding your home study/ home school diploma, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

If you have special circumstances that do not conform to these affidavits, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council for guidance.

ATTESTATION OF PARTENT/ GUARDIAN

I, _____
(FULL NAME OF Parent/Guardian– First Middle Last),

hereby swear or affirm, under criminal penalty of a felony subject to punishment by fine of not more than \$ 1000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, that , my child / ward, received the attached home study diploma pursuant to his/her successful completion of a home study program as recognized by applicable Georgia Law. I further swear or affirm that the home study program completed by my child / ward was administered by a person or persons duly qualified to administer such a program under applicable Georgia Law.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

(Signature of Notary Public)

(Date)

NOTARY SEAL



If your high school diploma is from a home study/home school program please complete the appropriate affidavit below. By signing this form, you are swearing that you completed a home study/school program in accordance with Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1). If you have questions surrounding your home study/ home school diploma, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

If you have special circumstances that do not conform to these affidavits, please contact the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council for guidance.

AFFIDAVIT OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HOME STUDY PROGRAM FROM PARENT/GUARDIAN (Parent/Guardian Deceased)

I, _____
(FULL NAME OF CANDIDATE – First Middle Last),

hereby swear or affirm, under criminal penalty of a felony subject to punishment by fine of not more than \$ 1000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, that my parent (s) / guardian having custody of me during my home study program died on _____(mm/dd/year).

(Signature of applicant)

(Date)

NOTARY SEAL