

State and District-Level Programs

1. State Compensatory Education (SCE)

- **What It Is:** A state-funded program that supports students at risk of academic failure or dropping out by offering tutoring, mentoring, credit recovery, and small group instruction.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - Your child's campus counselor or principal
 - District's SCE Coordinator (in Federal Programs or Curriculum & Instruction)
 - **How:**
 - Call the school to schedule a meeting.
 - Visit your district's website → Departments → SCE or Federal/State Programs
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2. Texas Education Agency (TEA) – Dropout Prevention

- **What It Is:** A set of state-endorsed strategies and tools to improve student engagement, behavior, attendance, and academic success to prevent dropping out.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - TEA's Safe and Supportive Schools Division
 - Your school's counselor or dropout prevention specialist
 - **Website:** <https://tea.texas.gov>
Navigate to: Academics → Safe and Supportive Schools → Dropout Prevention
 - **Email:** safeschools@tea.texas.gov
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3. Graduation Recovery Programs

- **What It Is:** District-based programs that help students who are behind in credits graduate on time. May include extended-day learning, night school, summer school, or virtual credit recovery.

- **Who to Contact:**
 - Your child's high school counselor
 - The campus graduation coach or credit recovery coordinator
 - **How:**
 - Request info about available recovery paths and eligibility
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4. Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs)

- **What It Is:** A temporary instructional setting for students removed from regular classrooms for serious disciplinary reasons, with a focus on behavior support and academic continuity.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - School administrator or counselor
 - District's Student Services or Alternative Education Department
 - **How:**
 - Ask for a placement meeting and review transition/re-entry plans
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5. Early College High Schools (ECHS)

- **What It Is:** Schools or school programs that allow students to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credit tuition-free—ideal for first-generation and at-risk students.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - ECHS coordinator or your child's high school counselor
 - **How:**
 - Visit the district website → Schools → Early College
 - Info: <https://tea.texas.gov/student-readiness-and-high-school/college-career-and-military-prep/early-college-high-school-echs>
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Academic & Counseling Support

6. Communities In Schools (CIS)

- **What It Is:** A school-based nonprofit that provides case management, tutoring, counseling, and wraparound support to students struggling with academics or personal issues.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - Your school's counselor
 - Local CIS affiliate
 - **Website:** <https://www.communitiesinschools.org/our-network/>
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7. Texas GEAR UP

- **What It Is:** A federally funded program that supports college readiness for low-income, first-generation students through mentoring, academic enrichment, and college/career exposure.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - College and Career Readiness Coordinator or school counselor
 - **Website:** <https://www.txgearup.org>
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8. Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)

- **What It Is:** TEA-approved online courses that allow students to catch up, accelerate, or learn in a flexible setting. Ideal for students who have missed school or need non-traditional options.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - Your school's counselor or district's virtual learning coordinator
 - **Website:** <https://www.txvsn.org>
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Career & Technical Education / Workforce Development

9. Career & Technical Education (CTE)

- **What It Is:** Hands-on programs that prepare students for real-world careers in trades, technology, health care, and more—often leading to certifications or dual credit.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - High school CTE teacher or counselor
 - District CTE Director
 - **How:**
 - Visit your district's website → Departments → CTE
 - Ask about certification tracks, job shadowing, and internships
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10. Texas YES Waiver

- **What It Is:** A Medicaid program that provides community-based mental health services for youth with serious emotional disturbance—can help prevent hospitalization or school failure.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - Your Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA)
 - **How:**
 - Find your LMHA: <https://resources.hhs.texas.gov/pages/find-services>
 - Ask for an intake or screening for the YES Waiver
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11. WIOA Youth Programs – Texas Workforce Commission

- **What It Is:** Offers job readiness training, internships, tutoring, and career coaching for youth aged 16–24 who face barriers to employment (including justice-involvement or homelessness).
- **Who to Contact:**

- Local Workforce Solutions Office
 - **How:**
 - Find office: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services>
 - Ask for the WIOA Youth Coordinator
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Mental Health & Social-Emotional Support

12. Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC)

- **What It Is:** A state program providing free telehealth mental health services for students via partnerships between schools and medical providers (e.g., CPAN, TCHATT).
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - School counselor or mental health team
 - **How:**
 - Ask if your school is enrolled in TCHATT or CPAN
 - More info: <https://www.tcmhcc.utsystem.edu>
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13. School-Based Mental Health Providers

- **What It Is:** Many Texas schools employ licensed professionals to support students' emotional and behavioral well-being. Services may include therapy, crisis intervention, and referrals.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - School counselor, mental health liaison, or social worker
 - **How:**
 - Call the school and request to speak with a mental health provider
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Additional Supports

14. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- **What It Is:** Federal law ensuring that students who are homeless or in unstable housing have access to free transportation, enrollment help, supplies, and educational stability.
 - **Who to Contact:**
 - School's McKinney-Vento Liaison
 - **How:**
 - Visit your district's website → Departments → Homeless Education
 - Or ask your campus counselor directly
 - Info: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/homeless-education>
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15. Section 504 / Special Education (IDEA)

- **What It Is:** Federal protections for students with disabilities. Section 504 provides accommodations; IDEA allows for special education services via an IEP (Individualized Education Program).
- **Who to Contact:**
 - School counselor (504)
 - Special Education Department (IDEA)
- **How:**
 - Submit a written request for evaluation to the principal or special education director
 - More info: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/special-student-populations/special-education>

Use the below template to request an initial evaluation to determine whether or not your child has a disability condition as determined by Texas state law. This evaluation is to determine if there is a learning disability or another disability that may be preventing the child from being successful in the classroom and possibly require special education services.

Dear **[Principal's Name]**,

I am writing as the parent of **[Child's Full Name]**, who is currently enrolled in the **[grade level]** grade at **[School Name]**. I am formally requesting that my child receive a Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) to determine whether they are eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

I have concerns regarding **[briefly describe concerns—e.g., academic performance, behavior, attention, communication, or other suspected disabilities]**. Based on these ongoing challenges, I believe that a comprehensive evaluation is necessary to determine my child's educational needs and whether specially designed instruction and related services are required for them to make appropriate progress in the general education curriculum.

Under Texas Education Code §29.004, and in accordance with IDEA (20 U.S.C. §1414), I understand that as a parent, I have the right to request an initial evaluation at any time. I also understand that upon receipt of this written request, the school must respond within 15 school days, either by providing me with prior written notice and a consent form for evaluation, or by denying the request and providing a written explanation of its refusal.

Please consider this letter my formal written request for a Full and Individual Evaluation.

If you require any additional information or forms to proceed with this request, please let me know promptly. I am eager to work collaboratively with the school team to support my child's success.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

Parent of **[Child's Full Name]**

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

All Things GED

Texas Laws Regarding GED for Students

1. Age Requirements

- **Minimum Age:** Generally, students must be 18 years old to take the GED test independently in Texas.
 - **Under 18:**
 - Students aged 16 or 17 may be eligible but must meet additional requirements.
 - Usually, these students must:
 - Have withdrawn from public school (with documented withdrawal)
 - Receive parental consent
 - Meet eligibility criteria set by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
 - Be enrolled in or have completed a preparation program (such as a GED prep class)
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2. Withdrawal from Public School

- Texas law requires that to take the GED as a minor, students must have officially withdrawn from public school. They cannot be currently enrolled in or attending a traditional high school.
 - School districts typically require parents to sign withdrawal forms, confirming that the student will pursue a GED or other alternative.
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3. Consent and Approval

- For students under 18, parental consent is mandatory.
 - In some cases, the school district or the GED testing center may require additional approval before allowing testing.
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4. GED Preparation Programs

- Texas encourages students to participate in GED preparation programs before testing.
 - These may be offered through:
 - Local school districts
 - Adult education centers
 - Community colleges
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5. Testing Requirements

- The GED test in Texas covers four subject areas:
 - Reasoning through Language Arts
 - Mathematical Reasoning
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - The student must pass all four tests to earn the Texas High School Equivalency (HSE) credential.
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6. Legal References

- **Texas Education Code §29.081** (Compensatory Education - addresses at-risk and dropout students, including GED preparation)
 - **Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 2, Chapter 74** (Graduation Requirements, including alternative paths like GED)
 - **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**: Oversees adult education and GED testing services.
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7. Additional Resources

- **Texas Education Agency (TEA) GED Information:** <https://tea.texas.gov>

- ❑ **Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education & Literacy:**
<https://twc.texas.gov>
- ❑ **GED Testing Service:** <https://ged.com>

1. How to Enroll in GED Prep Classes in Texas

Where to Find Prep Classes

- ❑ **Adult Education Centers:** Most Texas counties have adult education programs funded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that offer free or low-cost GED prep classes.
- ❑ **Community Colleges:** Many community colleges provide GED prep courses, sometimes with flexible schedules or online options.
- ❑ **School District Programs:** Some districts offer GED prep classes or can refer families to local resources.
- ❑ **Online Prep:** Official GED website (ged.com) offers study materials and practice tests.

How to Enroll

- ❑ Visit your local Workforce Solutions Office or Adult Education provider.
Find locations here: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services>
- ❑ Contact local community colleges and ask about GED prep programs.
- ❑ Call your child's school counselor to ask about district or community resources.
- ❑ Prepare necessary documents like ID, proof of Texas residency, and for minors, parental consent and withdrawal documentation from school.

2. GED Testing Locations in Texas

Official GED Test Centers

- ❑ Texas offers GED testing at approved testing centers throughout the state.
- ❑ Most centers require online registration in advance via the official GED website.
- ❑ Testing centers can be found in:
 - Adult education centers
 - Community colleges

- Career schools
- Some public libraries

How to Find and Register for a Test

- Go to the official GED website: <https://ged.com/test-centers/>
 - Enter your zip code to find the nearest approved testing centers.
 - Register online for the GED test, select test dates, and pay any required fees (fees may vary by location).
 - For minors, check with the test center for additional requirements or restrictions.
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3. Helping Your Child Transition from High School to GED

Steps for a Smooth Transition

1. Discuss the Decision Openly

Talk with your child about why they want to pursue the GED, goals, and next steps.

2. Official School Withdrawal

- Contact the school to complete the withdrawal paperwork. Schools typically require a signed form by the parent/guardian confirming withdrawal for GED purposes.
- Obtain copies of your child's transcripts and any school records needed for GED enrollment.

3. Connect with Support Services

- Ask the school counselor about GED prep programs and community resources.
- Inquire if the school or district offers counseling or transition services to help students adjust.

4. Enroll in GED Prep Classes

- Find a local adult education provider or community college program.
- Encourage your child to attend regularly and take advantage of tutoring or online supports.

5. Create a Study Plan

- Help your child set a study schedule using free or paid GED prep materials (available at libraries or online).

6. Prepare for Testing

- Once ready, help your child register for the GED test at an official testing center.
- Ensure they have proper identification and any required paperwork.

7. Explore Career and College Options

- After earning the GED, your child can apply to colleges, technical schools, or workforce programs.
- Connect with local workforce offices or college advisors for guidance.

Helpful Contacts for Parents

- **School Counselor:** First contact for withdrawal and local GED resources
- **Local Workforce Solutions Office:** <https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services>
- **GED Testing Service:** <https://ged.com>
- **Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education:** <https://twc.texas.gov>
- **Local Community College:** Contact admissions or continuing education departments

Parent Guide: Helping Your Child Transition from High School to GED in Texas

Step 1: Understand Eligibility and Requirements

- ☐ **Age:** Your child must be at least **18 years old** to take the GED independently.
 - ☐ If your child is **16 or 17**, they must:
 - Have **officially withdrawn** from public school (not currently enrolled)
 - Have **parental consent** to pursue GED
 - Meet district and state eligibility criteria
 - ☐ Review Texas Education Code §29.081 and TEA guidelines on GED eligibility.
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Step 2: Talk with Your Child and the School

- ☐ Have an open conversation about your child's goals and reasons for pursuing the GED.
 - ☐ Contact your child's **school counselor** to discuss:
 - The withdrawal process
 - Available GED prep programs or alternative education options
 - Required paperwork and next steps
 - ☐ Request a **formal withdrawal form** from the school to document that your child is no longer enrolled.
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Step 3: Complete Official Withdrawal

- ☐ Submit the signed withdrawal form to the school.
 - ☐ Keep copies of all withdrawal paperwork and your child's academic records (transcripts, attendance).
 - ☐ Confirm with the school that the withdrawal is recorded and your child is eligible to pursue GED.
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Step 4: Enroll in GED Preparation

- ❑ Contact local **Adult Education Centers** or **Community Colleges** for GED prep classes.
 - ❑ You can find programs through the Texas Workforce Commission's Workforce Solutions offices:
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services>
 - ❑ Encourage your child to attend prep classes or use online study resources at <https://ged.com>.
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Step 5: Register for the GED Test

- ❑ Visit the official GED website: <https://ged.com>
 - ❑ Create an account and register for testing at a Texas-approved testing center.
 - ❑ Testing locations can be searched here: <https://ged.com/test-centers/>
 - ❑ For minors (under 18), check testing center rules for parental consent or additional documentation.
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Step 6: Support Your Child Through Testing

- ❑ Help your child prepare using study guides, practice tests, and prep courses.
 - ❑ Ensure they have valid ID and any required paperwork on test day.
 - ❑ Encourage positive study habits and manage testing appointments.
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Step 7: After Passing the GED Test

- ❑ Your child will receive the **Texas High School Equivalency (HSE) credential**.
- ❑ This credential can be used to:
 - Apply for colleges and universities
 - Seek job training or employment
 - Enroll in workforce programs
- ❑ Contact local Workforce Solutions or college advisors for next steps in career or education planning.

Additional Tips for Parents

- ❑ **Keep communication open** with your child's educators and GED program coordinators.
- ❑ **Request support services** if your child has special needs or requires accommodations under Section 504 or IDEA.
- ❑ If your child has emotional or behavioral challenges, explore mental health support through school or community agencies.
- ❑ Stay informed about local and state GED policies, which can be found on the Texas Education Agency and GED Testing Service websites.

Helpful Contacts

Resource	Contact Info	Notes
School Counselor	School Office	Discuss withdrawal and GED prep
Texas Workforce Solutions	https://www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services	Adult education & job training
GED Testing Service	https://ged.com	Register & prep resources
Local Community College	College website/contact	GED prep classes & testing