



# Issuance of the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma

---

*Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education  
Division of Adult Education Policy*

Subject: **Issuance of the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma**  
Number: H.600  
Effective: June 9, 2023  
Expires: Indefinite  
Status: Replaces H.600 issued May 16, 2022

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Individuals may possess only one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.

## **PURPOSE**

Pennsylvania residents who meet eligibility requirements can earn a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma by earning passing scores as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on high school equivalency tests or by completing 30 semester hours of postsecondary level coursework at an institution of postsecondary education accredited in the United States. This policy serves to clarify that, while there are multiple options to earn the credential, an individual may only possess one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma.

## **GUIDANCE**

22 Pa Code §4.72 states that the “Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma may be issued to an applicant who is a resident of this Commonwealth and **does not possess a secondary school diploma** (emphasis added).” Once an individual has been issued a Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma that individual possesses a secondary school diploma and is therefore not eligible for additional Commonwealth Secondary School Diplomas. In cases in which an individual is incorrectly in possession of more than one Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma, the first diploma earned will be considered the valid diploma and any subsequent diplomas will be considered invalid.