



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Social Services

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS  
  
Wayne E. Black  
Division Director

September 26, 2013

**Dear County Director of Social Services**

**Attention:** Work First Program Administrators, Work First Employment Services Supervisors and Workers

**Subject:** Changes in General Educational Development (GED) Programs

A new computer-based GED test will begin nationally on **January 1, 2014**. GED Testing Services will now be administering a four part test based on the new Common Core education standards adopted by most states including North Carolina. If Work First participants are currently pursuing a GED certificate, please make the participants aware that any scores they have from the 2002 Series GED testing will expire and cannot be carried over to the new test beginning **January 1, 2014**. Please encourage Work First participants who are currently in GED courses to complete their current GED testing by the end of 2013. GED Testing Services states that the cost of GED testing will be \$120 effective January 1, 2014.

Work First funds may be used to provide assistance with the cost of GED testing as a supportive service to current Work First participants, if it is a component of their Mutual Responsibility Agreement Plan of Action (DSS 6963B). 150-200% services may be utilized to cover the cost of testing as long the funds do not meet the definition of assistance. In addition, the county's 150-200% county plan must include educational assistance as a provided service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [workfirst.support@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:workfirst.support@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Acting Chief  
Economic and Family Services

**EFS-WF-19-2013**

Economic and Family Services  
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