

# Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO) & *REACH Act* Webinar

*February 4, 2026*



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[Slides & Resources](#)



# HSDO Points of Contact

## *Instructional Services*

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# Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO)

Started in 2016, as a partnership between the Adult Education Department of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and the ALSDE.

- Designed for students who dropped out of high school or completed all graduation requirements besides meeting the Alabama High School Graduation Exam requirements
- Two Options for HSDO:
  - **Option 1:** Student earned all credits required by state or local school district to graduate but failed one or more parts of the High School Graduation Exam
  - **Option 2:** Student earned 10 or more credits from an Alabama public high school & requires the additional credits for completion



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# Important Things to Note



- Education Directory Contact: Every LEA needs to identify someone to serve as the *Adult Education contact in the Education Directory*
- Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and ALSDE will use the Adult Education contact listed in Education Directory for communications.
- ACCS will now use DocuSign to complete the Transcript Audits that were previously paper versions. It is important these are completed in a timely manner – best practice is within 10 business days of receipt.
- ACCS and ALSDE are now sharing data relating to students who have dropped out of school.



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# Most Important Thing to Note

**The work completed in the ACCS Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option (HSDO) program is recognized **FEDERALLY** as the equivalent of the Alabama High School Diploma.**

- *When you are issuing diplomas nothing other than an Alabama High School diploma shall be issued.*
  - This includes no notations on the diploma of anything different than what you would issue as your Alabama High School Diploma.
- Diplomas from HSDO will not be awarded **PRIOR** to the graduation date of the respective graduation cohort



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# *Restoring Educational Advancement of Completing High School (REACH) Act*

**The REACH Act passed by the Alabama Legislature in May 2025, has now opened additional opportunities for Alabama students who have chosen to dropout of high school.**

In summary, the *REACH Act*, provides for a nontraditional high school diploma option (HSDO) for students *17 years of age and older* (begin program) who withdraw from an Alabama, public, K-12 school and enrolls through the Adult Education Division of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) as a pathway to an Alabama High School Diploma through Adult Education. (Must be 18 to earn their program through HSDO.)



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# Key Changes Brought by *REACH Act*

## *New age of HSDO enrollment: 18 years old*

- Students can drop-out earlier and begin the HSDO coursework, but cannot receive their diploma until they are 18 years of age.

## *Students dropping out of high school and enrolling within the same academic year can have their exit code and Cohort status updated*

- New exit code has been developed to be used once the school receives the enrollment verification form from ACCS/Adult Education



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# HSDO Exit Code - When & How to Use

*ALSDE has deployed a new exit code to note when students who have previously dropped out but have verified enrollment in the ACCS HSDO program*

## **WB5 – Transfer Within State (ACCS Non-Traditional High School Diploma Option – HSDO)**

### Reminders:

- Students must have dropped out of high school and have an Exit Code showing as Dropout (D-Code)
- Students who withdraw to home, church, private tutor, or private school are NOT eligible for the HSDO program – their final school was not an Alabama, public K-12 school



# Exit Interview

The Exit Interview Guidance will be undergoing revisions and will be updated soon to reflect the *REACH Act* and newly developed information from ACCS on the HSDO program.

Make sure you talk to at risk juniors and seniors about the HSDO program and the opportunities it can afford them as a pathway to an Alabama High School Diploma.



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# Resources

All HSDO Resources and Information will be located in the [linked public folder](#). Same as QR code & short link →

- [HSDO Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)

*This document provides responses to the most frequently asked questions relating to HSDO.*

- [HSDO Procedural Guide](#)

- [elines](#)

*This document outlines the procedures of HSDO and the accompanying ACCS forms.*

## Slides & Resources



# Questions

