

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP)

### 1. What is the Focused Graduation Pathway (FGP)?

The FGP is a program designed to help students who are significantly behind in high school credits remain engaged in a K-12 school and graduate with their cohort by utilizing the General Education Development (GED)<sup>®</sup> subject area tests to demonstrate competency in the core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

### 2. Who is eligible to participate in the FGP?

To be eligible for the FGP, a student must:

- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Be a junior or senior enrolled in high school.
- Be significantly behind in high school credits earned.
- Demonstrate a 9th-grade reading level or higher on an assessment chosen by the Local Education Agency (LEA).
- Remain enrolled in a Utah K-12 school throughout the entirety of the pathway.

### 3. What are the steps for a school to participate in the FGP?

A participating school must:

- Develop policies and procedures surrounding the FGP in accordance with existing LEA policy.
- Obtain LEA board approval prior to participating in the FGP.
- Designate an FGP Coordinator to oversee the program.
- Submit the application to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) for approval.
- Implement the approved application.

### 4. What support is provided to FGP students?

Participating schools must provide necessary support for students with disabilities, maintain a student-teacher ratio not to exceed the average ratio of the participating school for all GED prep courses, and provide subject area experts to students when preparing for each GED subject test.

**5. How do FGP students take the GED exam?**

FGP students can complete GED subject tests at approved testing centers or through an online proctored test. FGP programs will work with USBE to gain access to students' GED scores to determine credit.

**6. Will my school need to become a GED testing center to participate in the FGP?**

No. GED testing centers are already available in most areas of the state. Students participating in the FGP will be encouraged to utilize existing testing centers. In extenuating circumstances, students may also be able to access Online Proctored GED tests.

**7. Can FGP students earn high school credits for passing the GED exam?**

Yes, participating schools may award core credit to FGP students for passing GED exams, as determined by school and LEA policy. Awarded credit is recorded on a transcript as pass/fail instead of a letter grade.

**8. How many credits can a student earn from completing GED subject tests?**

Depending on the LEA's policy, students could earn up to thirteen credits for passing all four subject tests, as follows:

- 4 language arts credits for passing the Reasoning through Language Arts exam
- 3 mathematics credits for passing the Mathematical Reasoning exam
- 3 social studies credits for passing the Social Studies exam
- 3 science credits for passing the Science exam

**9. What happens if a student passes all 4 GED subject tests?**

Even if a student passes all 4 GED subject tests, the school should keep the student enrolled in the FGP until they have completed all graduation requirements.

**10. What happens after an FGP student completes the program?**

Upon successful completion of the FGP and all LEA graduation requirements, an FGP student will be awarded a traditional high school diploma and be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. They may also be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy if they have completed the GED exam in English and fulfilled all requirements as outlined in R277-499.

**11. Is this an adult education pathway?**

No, this pathway is intended for students enrolled in a K12 school, not for adult education students.

**12. To whom does a school apply if they want to participate in the FGP?**

The school district would submit their application to USBE by completing [this survey](#).

**13. Which schools can participate in the FGP?**

Any K-12 high school can participate if they get local LEA approval and apply to, and are approved by, USBE.

**14. Is this pathway a way for students to graduate early?**

No. This pathway is intended to keep students who are credit deficient engaged in school and allow them a pathway to graduate online. This pathway is not to allow early graduation.