How old do I have to be to take the GED?

If you are at least 18 years old, you can apply to take the GED. If you are 17 or 16, you may be able to apply to take the test if you meet additional requirements.

What if I’m 17?

If you are seventeen and you want to apply to take the GED, you must first get permission from CPS. You should talk to your caseworker about your interest in taking the test. If you are married, serving in the military, or have been declared to be an adult by a court, the permission requirement will not apply. (See Texas Administrative Code 89.43(a)(2)(B))

You must also provide proof that you have officially withdrawn from school.

Sample consent and withdrawal forms can be found here: [http://continue.austincc.edu/testing/ged/guardian.pdf](http://continue.austincc.edu/testing/ged/guardian.pdf), but you should check with your GED testing center to make sure you use their preferred form.

If you are seventeen and currently enrolled in a High School Equivalency Program at your school, you should talk to your teacher about when you can apply to take the GED.

What if I’m 16?

Sixteen year olds can only apply to take the GED in very limited circumstances. If you have been criminally charged with failure to attend school and the judge has ordered you to take the GED, you will be able to apply to take the test. (See Texas Code of Criminal Procedure 45.054; Texas Administrative Code 89.43(a)(2)(C)) Make sure you or your guardian have original copies of the court order or recommendation; you will need them when you sign up to take the test.

Alternatively, if you are enrolled in Job Corps or ChalleNGe Corps, you may also apply to take the GED after you turn sixteen. (See Texas Administrative Code 89.43(a)(2)(C)(ii-iii))