Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, education is a fundamental right and an essential foundation for personal growth and societal progress; and

Whereas, the GED® test plays a crucial role in providing individuals with the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency credential, opening doors to higher education, better employment opportunities, and increased economic mobility; and

Whereas, the GED Testing Service has been dedicated to offering accessible and equitable testing opportunities to individuals striving to enhance their educational attainment and achieve their full potential; and

Whereas, GED graduates contribute significantly to our communities by demonstrating resilience, determination, and a commitment to lifelong learning; and

Whereas, West Virginia has offered the GED since 1961 and celebrated over 200,000 graduates and since contributed an approximate \$10,000 in salaries per year per graduate significantly to West Virginia's economic development and the personal development of its residents; and

Whereas, GED Day serves as a reminder to celebrate the achievements of GED graduates and to raise awareness about the importance of supporting educational pathways that accommodate diverse learning journeys.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim September 16, 2024 as:

National GED Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all learners, educators, employers, and community leaders to recognize the accomplishments of GED graduates and support initiatives that promote educational equity and access for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Third day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

SENTES VICENTIAL SENTES

Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner Secretary of State