DSP Requirements (D)(17) pgs. 9-11

-Revisit the 18 yrs of age requirement? Can you think of work scenarios where a younger employee would fit? - **A high schooler that is going through the DSPaths training through their school. They should be able to as an intern to get real life experiences as a DSP.  Also, younger teens should be able to work as "socializers" to interact with individuals during evening hours and weekends.  Not do personal care but create an supervised environment of socialization and community integration. Both create a younger workforce for the future.  We lose these people to the fast food and skilled nursing facilities early on and it is difficult to compete for staff later.**

-Revisit the high school degree or GED requirement? Same as above.  **I have been trying to get this changed for a decade but ARC votes against it and stops me every time. There are some wonderful caring people in their late 20's and 30's that, for some reason, did not graduate from high school (teen pregnancy, so parental support, had to work to help support the family or babysit siblings, etc.) They would be great DSPs and would appreciate the lousy pay. We cut these folks right out of our workforce.  It's crazy, they are wonderful people, who have families to feed, bills to pay and want to help others; it's all they know. A HS diploma does NOT make you a better person or DSP, a caring heart and soul does.**