

High School Equivalency Options

Michael Farma Bristol County Regional
Workforce Board Feb 1, 2023

Agenda

- State of the State – Policy Changes
- HSE Options – ADP /HSE Tests
- Test Comparison
 - General
 - Test Development

HSE State of the State

- 2022-2023 Policy Changes
 - Spanish Testing
 - HiSET® Purchased by PSI
 - Free Testing for candidates.
 - Combining of Scores to Credential

HSE State of the State

- HiSET was sold to PSI starting October 1, 2022
 - Required rebid of HSE testing services
 - HiSET and GED Remain HSE Tests for Massachusetts
 - TASC is no longer a vendor

HSE State of the State

- HiSET Purchased by PSI
 - Significant issues with the transition
 - Registration Issues
 - Paper Test Issues
 - File Transfer Errors (LACES and Diplomasender)

HSE State of the State

- Test takers will need to create ***new usernames and passwords*** for www.hiset.org .
- Enter old ETS ID number and email – enter “FORGOT PASSWORD”
- If you forgot either contact me Michael.A.Farma@mass.gov
- DO NOT CREATE NEW USER
 - Creates Duplicate account that may not merge.
 - Old ETS scores appear AFTER you have taken a PSI exam.

HSE State of the State

- Free Testing for Candidates

- Effective September 8, 2022, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will pay for a candidate's first GED® test in each subject plus limited retakes (two retests per subject).

- First Time Testers

- If you are scheduling your GED® test at an Official GED® test center, enter promo code **MAFREEGED** during checkout.
- If scheduling the GED® Online Proctored test (GED OP®), enter **MAFREEGED** first then enter promo code **OPMAFREEGED** during checkout. Please note that the Official GED® Practice test is still required for GED OP® and the cost for these tests is paid by the test taker.
- Re-Testers
- If you are taking the retest at an Official GED® test center, enter promo code **MARETAKE** during checkout.
- For GED® Online Proctored test (GED OP®) retakes, enter promo code **OPMARETAKE** during checkout.

- Announcement on HiSET® Imminent

HSE State of the State

- **Combining GED[®] and HiSET[®] Scores**
- Effective November 23, 2022, Massachusetts High School Equivalency candidates will be able to combine GED[®] and HiSET[®] subtest scores to complete the requirements of their High School Equivalency Credential.
- Candidates may take subtests for either exam in any order. Passing scores will remain the same, 145 minimum per subtest for GED[®] and a minimum score of 8 and an average of 9 for HiSET[®] (minimum 2 for the essay on HiSET LA Writing).
- Candidates will continue see their subtest scores on the respective assessment websites, (www.GED.com/www.hiset.org) and the combined scores will be available when the student completes their testing and the transcript is generated at www.diplomasender.com.

HSE State of the State

- Under 18 –
 - [Under-18 Special Requirements - High School Equivalency \(HSE\) Testing Program \(mass.edu\)](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/under-18-special-requirements-high-school-equivalency-hse-testing-program)
- Other Considerations:
 - The Massachusetts Board of Education has instituted a policy that community college students must be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend classes on campus. Several of the community colleges have extended this mandate to include all participants of campus activities including High School Equivalency testing.

HSE State of the State

- REQUIRE VACCINATIONS
- Bristol Community College
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Greenfield Community College
- Holyoke Community College
- Massasoit Community College
- Mount Wachusett Community College
- Roxbury Community College

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- ADP Definition

The Adult Diploma Program (aka External Diploma Program or Alternative Diploma Program) is a High School Diploma.

The course of study must be approved by, and the diploma issued by, the local school district or private secondary school.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- Because the Adult Diploma is a High School Diploma, The Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993, state law, [MG.L. c. 69, § 1D](#), requires that all students attaining the ADP must meet the [Competency Determination \(CD\) standard](#), in addition to meeting all local graduation requirements.
- In other words, graduates must pass, or otherwise demonstrate the competencies by scoring proficient on Grade 10 MCAS or an approved portfolio.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- The HSE Credential is earned by demonstrating:
 - Competencies by means of earning a passing score,
 - In a series of timed assessments,
 - In courses of study determined to be required by most US (and international) secondary institutions.
- Because the assessments (GED and HiSET)* do not meet the standards required in [MG.L. c. 69, § 1D](#), it can not be called a diploma.
- *Although they are aligned with the CCRSAE

ADP/ HSE Comparison

HSE

- Totally relies on assessment.
- Inflexible.
- 7 ½ hours of testing.
- Computer or Paper Based.
- Previous high school experience does not count.
- Must be at least 16 (Need letter of HS Withdrawal Age 16-17).
- Home School students are eligible
- Issued by the State

Adult Diploma

- Generally, competency driven.
- Flexibility.
- May take Grade 10 MCAS or provide portfolio and can combine.
- Previous high school credits are applied.
- Recommend be at least 22. (For portfolio 18-22) otherwise Mass. MCAS Alt rules may apply if still enrolled.
- Home School Students may not be eligible.
- Issued by the District

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- GED RLA - Reading

- **Seventy-five percent of the texts in the exam are informational texts** (including nonfiction drawn from the science and the social studies as well as a range of texts from workplace contexts); 25 percent are literature.
- The texts included in the test cover a range of text complexity, including texts at the career and college readiness level.
- For texts in which comprehension hinges on vocabulary, the focus is on understanding words that appear frequently in texts from a wide variety of disciplines and, by their definition, are not unique to a particular discipline.
- **U.S. founding documents and the “the Great American Conversation” that followed are required texts for study and assessment.**
- The length of the texts included in the reading comprehension component of the test vary between **450 and 900** words.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- GED RLA – Writing

- Draw relevant and sufficient evidence from a literary or information text to support analysis and reflection.
- Use technology to produce writing, demonstrating sufficient command of keyboarding skills.
- Candidate responses are scored by a multi-trait rubric that focuses on three elements:
 - Trait 1: Analysis of arguments (*plural*) and use of evidence.
 - Trait 2: Development of ideas and structure.
 - Trait 3: Clarity and command of standard English.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- HiSET Writing
 - Organization of Ideas (22%).
 - Language Facility (43%).
 - Writing Conventions (35%).
 - The multiple-choice questions require candidates to make revision choices concerning organization, diction, and clarity, sentence structure, usage, and mechanics.
 - The essay question measures proficiency in the generation and organization of ideas through a direct assessment of evidence-based writing. Candidates read a pair of texts and then create written responses. Responses are evaluated on the candidates' abilities to develop positions or claims supported by evidence from the materials provided *as well as their own experiences*.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- HiSET Reading
 - Application of concepts, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation involving:
 - Literary Texts (40%)
 - Informational Texts (60%) .
 - In the ETS HiSET program, candidates will be required to read a broad range of high-quality literary and informational texts. The selections are presented in multiple genres on subject matter that varies in purpose and style. The selections will span various forms (e.g., narratives, memoirs, essays, biographical sketches, editorials, and poetry). The texts generally range in length from approximately **400 to 600** words.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- Checklist for ELA ADP CD Portfolios
 - Read works Grade 10 (or higher)
 - 3/5 require analysis, interpretation, comparison, or contrast
 - 2/5 connect theme to own life; creative/reflective/persuasive
 - Poetry – consider theme and elements that stand out
 - Document secondary sources properly in persuasive essays
 - 3 Drafts each showing noticeable improvement
 - Final drafts are evaluated for content and writing
 - Beware repetition/redundancies in 5 paragraph essays

Test Material

HiSET

- Mathematics
 - Numbers and Operations on Numbers (19%).
 - Measurement/Geometry (18%).
 - Data Analysis/Probability/Statistics (18%).
 - Algebraic Concepts (45%).
 - The Mathematics test is calculator neutral.
 - The formulas below will not be provided on the formula sheet: (Handout Reference Sheet)
 - **Distance = (rate) (time) or $d = rt$; note d is distance, r is rate, and t is time.**
 - **Pythagorean theorem: $a^2+b^2=c^2$ Note: c is the longest side of the triangle; a and b are the other.**
- **Quadratic formula:** $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ where $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and $a \neq 0$

GED

- Mathematical Reasoning
 - Quantitative problem solving (45%).
 - Algebraic problem solving (55%).
 - The test includes items that test procedural skill and fluency as well as problem solving.
 - The contexts within which problem solving skills are measured were taken from both academic and workforce contexts.
 - (Handout Reference Sheet)

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

In General, for a competency determination in mathematics:

- 14 of the legacy 2011 mathematics standards must be addressed in the portfolio, and be at grade 10 level of complexity; [For now, soon to be revised to the 2017 standards]
- Each sample of work must be accompanied by a “work description”
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcasappeals/filing/portfolio/wd-math.docx> ;
- Work must be both accurate and complete, meaning all aspects of a standard must be covered and work on all aspects must be at least 75% accurate;
- Work must have been done with at least a 75% level of independence;
- Overall, the work in the portfolio must be equivalent to a score of 470 or better on the MCAS test.

Test Material

HiSET

- Science
 - Life Science (49%).
 - Physical Science (28%).
 - Earth Science (23%).
 - Most of the questions in the test are associated with stimulus materials that provide descriptions of scientific investigations and their results.
 - The questions may ask candidates to identify the research question of interest, select the best design for a specific research question, and recognize conclusions that can be drawn from results.

GED

- Science
 - Life Science (40%).
 - Physical Science (40%).
 - Earth and Space Science (20%).
 - The test includes items that test textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, as well as problem solving with science content.
 - Approximately 50 percent of the items are presented in item scenarios, in which a single stimulus (which may be textual, graphic or a combination of both) serves to inform two to three items. The rest of the items are discrete.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

SCIENCE

- Compare and contrast, at the cellular level, the general structures and degrees of complexity of prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
- Use cellular evidence (e.g., cell structure, cell number, cell reproduction) and modes of nutrition to describe the six kingdoms (Archaeobacteria, Eubacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plantae, Animalia).
- Compare and contrast a virus and a cell in terms of genetic material and reproduction.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

HiSET

- Social Studies
 - History (35%).
 - Civics/Government (35%).
 - Economics (20%).
 - Geography (10%).
 - Primary documents, posters, cartoons, timelines, maps, graphs, tables, charts, and reading passages may be used to present information. The questions may ask candidates to distinguish statements of fact from opinion; recognize the limitations of procedures and methods; and make judgments about the reliability of sources, the validity of inferences and conclusions, and the adequacy of information for drawing conclusions.

GED

- Social Studies
 - Civics and Government (50%).
 - United States History (20%).
 - Economics, (15%).
 - Geography and the World(15%).
 - The test includes items that assess textual analysis and understanding, data representation and inference skills, and problem solving using social studies content. Problem-solving skills are measured in both academic and workplace contexts.
 - Approximately 50 percent of the test items are based on scenarios in which a single stimulus (textual, graphic or a combination of both) serves to inform two or three items; the remaining approximately 50 percent of the items are discrete stand-alone items.

High School Equivalency and Adult Diploma (ADP)

- [Video Training for Authttps://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/Performance Level Descriptors Chart.pdf](https://ged.com/wp-content/uploads/Performance_Level_Descriptors_Chart.pdf)horized Test Centers (ged.com)
- [HiSET Test at a Glance \(TAAG\) Information Brief](#)

Questions?